



QATOR ITRINS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

VOLUME I, No. 1

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NIGH-ON THREE MONTHS

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editorial

“Four Stars of the Southern Cross, In Mourning For Their Sister’s Loss”

Damn. It’s been a while since I published a Talossan newsmagazine. I hope I still remember how everything works.

Welcome, free Talossans and others present, to the very first issue of *Qator Itrins* (Four Stars). I’m not sure whether this is still common knowledge, but way back when I first applied for Talossan citizenship, it was almost expected that a new citizen would start up a newspaper of some description. (There used to be an archive of Talossan newspapers from the mid-to-late-’90s - its ghost is still flitting around the Web. Check “www.talossa.com/media” at web.archive.org. Some of those old *Devotchka Gazetas* are hilarious.)

Of course, my original newspaper, *The Southern Cross*, became infamous for a whole number of reasons. However, my new venture is in the old tradition - hence the name, which is not only a reference to the glorious banner of the new Republic, but to my original attempt at press-baron immortality, seven long years ago. Tradition, as all Talossans should know, is vitally important - as long as it’s balanced with creativity. I hope I can keep that balance in these pages.

I want *QI* to be an outlet for not only news, but political debate, historical record, linguistic interest. Also, I want it to be a *compelling read*. I want people to start an organised chorus of whining whenever an issue is a day late. I want people to say something like “Damn, can’t wait to see what *QI* says about this!” I want it to be the beating heart of the New Talossan Culture, born in freedom but taking everything that’s good about the old one.

So, this week: we have news on new organisations. Read about the TFAS, RFT and possibly other acronyms on the next couple of pages. An article from Marti-Páir Furxheir, on his experiences of the Revolution. And controversy - your editor on her hopes and visions for the constitution; and micronational eminence Dieter Hamm speaks on the topic of whether Talossa should throw open its borders (by which we mean posting access on *Wittenberg*) to the wider world. Finally, our Secretary speaks about where we are, and where we’re going.

And - right beside this article - a translation of it into *el glheß Talossán*. If we’re serious about being the Republic of *Talossa* - and not just another secessionist micronation - we have to reclaim everything that’s good about the old Kingdom. And vigorously promoting the language is one thing that this paper is going to take seriously.

Anyway, happy reading. I’ll expect articles from most of you for the next issue. (See back page.)



MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ **Editor / Redactéir**

A recording of part of this editorial (in Talossan) will soon appear on Radio Free Talossa.

Ûn aubümiçaziun d’iens pârts d’acest editoriál bentôpt apiarha sür Raídio da Talossa Liverescù.

dal redactéir

“Ûn Pâts Sânc Glheß isch ‘n Pâts Sânc Coraziun”

Miéida! C’e ja ‘n tîmp deschînd eu públicéveu ‘n xhurnál Talossán. Eu espereu qê eu sovenênçeu adüc come toct funziuna. (Ocsâ, qê va Talossán non isch trô atrôtz!)

Benveneshti, Talossâes livereschti és altreux presînt, àl iBütâ prîmâ da *Qator Itrins*. Eu non sînt sigûr siat c’e adüc sâp comûn, mäs dîn el tîmp vell quând qê eu aplicévêu priméis pêr citaxhienitâ Talossán, si prescâ expecteva qê ‘n citaxhién noveu seßadra qualsevol xhurnál. (Ja fût mustáir da xhurnáis Talossâes dels ârs 90 centreu-à-schpéit - ça spritz adüc flota circûm la TM. Investiget “www.talossa.com/media” à web.archive.org. D’acestilor vells iBütâs del *Devotchka Gazeta* sînt gladoûrs.)

Da c’horsicâ, va xhurnál urixhinál, *La Crutz Midziuál*, zevienieva scândlic pêr mült da raziuns. Com’evri, va cjartî noveu continua la tradiziun vell - daincêts la nôminâ, qî non solamînt satûra el bandéir gloriôs dal nouâ Repûblicâ, mäs va attentat urixhinál àl ûnmortalitâ d’iensâ baron da preBeu, ja seifet ârs lungs. La tradiziun, come toct i Talossâes fossent säperê, isch vitâlmînt împîrtînt - sâ

qê c’è valançat pêr âratiutâ. Eu espereu qê eu pëvarhéu mîntenençar acest balançeu dîn acestilor pâxinâs.

Eu volt qê *QI* serâ ‘n eschtivéu pêr non solamînt noveschti, mäs zebâts politicâis, adnalâs Bistorici, neonac’has glheßeschti. Ocsâ, eu volt qê serâ *neceßar en lirar*. Eu volt qê xhînts zeveniençarhent ‘n corâ organiçadâ da c’horar quând’evri ‘n iBûta isch ‘n ziuâ schpéit. Eu volt qê xhînts zirent qualse’cosâ come “Miéida, non pût atendar vidarê qê zia *QI* över acest!” Eu volt qê ça serâ la coraziun pulsînd dal Culturâ Nouâ Talossán, nascadâ en livertâ mäs prîndînd toct q’isch ben dal vell.

Sâ, acest mes, ja noveschti över organiçaziuns nouâs. Liretz över els TFAS, RFT és poucivâlmînt acronûms altreux sür las douâ pagxinâs proxims. ‘N articál da Marti-Páir Furxheir över sieu experiençûs del Revoluziun. Ocsâ cuncontroverçû - tú redactéir över sieu ispéux és viziuns pêr la Constituziun; és el eminênçeu nazuinetál Dieter Hamm parla över siat Talossa fost regaßar sieu grentzâs (par qêt si volt zirarê, aceßivalitâ da *Wittenberg* pêr afischar) àl mondeu pû amplex. Finâlmînt, ár Secretár parla över dove noi sînt, és aduvê noi viennent.

Aici ja va articál prîm îñ el glheß Talossán. Schi noi sînt seriösen över estarê la Repûblicâ da *Talossa* - és non solamînt ‘n naziunetâ secedistâ altrâ - noi fossent arpiar toct q’isch ben dîn el vell Regipâts. És aviguratmînt promotar el glheß isch viensâ cosâ qê acest xhurnál seriösmînt piersequarha.

Zespitzi toct, liretz felîçamînt. Eu expectarhéu articâis del pûpârts de voi per la iBütâ proxim. (Videtz la pâxhinâ rûc.)

CULTURAL REVOLUTION IN THE REPUBLIC

New Radio Makes Waves: Fine Arts and History Books To Follow?

By our own correspondent

Beating the Republic's first newsmagazine to publication by a couple of weeks, Chris Gruber's "Radio Free Talossa" took to the airwaves on August 13th.

RFT opened for business with a half-hour opinion show, "Stubborn Things", narrated by Chief Justice Gruber himself. Topics ranged from the plans for the production of this very newsmagazine (thanks for the publicity, Chris!) to Gruber's plans and wishes for the upcoming Constitution.

Showing a quite frightening command of audio technology, Gruber produced a fully professional-sounding show, which actually fooled one or two listeners into thinking that more than one person was involved in its production.

The editor of this newsmagazine, tickled at being described by Gruber as "the infamous Daph", is planning to make that appearance a reality for its next issue, contributing a reading of part of that very editorial you see on the opposite page.

A Huge Step Forward

Reaction from the Republican audience was no less than rapturous. Among many to cheer the new cultural endeavour was another of the Republic's cultural mavens, Ronalt Rosáis. "Talossan Culture just took a HUGE step forward in it's 25 year journey



The logo of the new radio station

toward uniqueness," he said, applauding Gruber's effort.

Rosáis' own contribution to the flowering of the New Talossan Culture has been his plan for a Talossan Fine Arts Society. The Society's mission, according to its website, is "to permeate Talossa's culture with the fine arts by encouraging the free expression of all its citizens."

Most concrete of the TFAS proposals so far is for Talossan musicians - which the Republic appears to have by the truckload - to band together to compose a national anthem for the Republic. Another rumoured venture has been the setting up of a music station to complement RFT.

But wait, there's even more! Jeff Ragsdale, former publisher of a newspaper in the Kingdom, has announced plans to set up our first publishing firm. "Oraclâ Press is nearing the completion date for the first volume in a new series of what-will-end-up-as-books dealing with the Halloween Crisis and the formation of the Republic of Talossa," says Ragsdale.

It's well known that people are never so creative as during a revolution. With a media explosion linked to a flourishing of interest in the Talossan language, the first months of the new Republic have proved that old saying well and truly. It only remains to be seen if this level of energy can be kept up as the Republic consolidates. ■

CONSTITUTIONAL COMMITTEE: WORK GRINDS ON

By our own correspondent

In less interesting news, the process of designing a new constitution for the Republic of Talossa inches onwards. The nomination of a Committee of the Convention by Dean of the Provisional Governing Council, Michael Pope, was supposed to speed the process up by producing relatively quick decisions on a draft text to be put to the wider convention.

However, this was not to be. Although what work the Committee has produced has gone smoothly, it has also gone at about the rate of continental drift. Committee member Jonathan Kelly has had recurring computer troubles which has made his access to *Wittenberg* patchy at best.

The other committee members - Miestrâ Schivâ, Chris Gruber and Michael Pope - have often had more pressing engagements, which have often left the Committee silent for up to a week at a time.

Nevertheless, the Committee has managed to produce one substantive draft of the new Constitution - the duties and powers of the President of the Republic. The President will be elected to a one-year term (with no consecutive re-election) by a secret preferential ballot. Procedures for impeachment have been laid out.

Also, many of the President's powers will require the consent of the Parliamentary government. What this Government may look like, Zeus only knows so far. Stay tuned for further updates. ■

LINKS

"STUBBORN THINGS": http://www.courteousminer.com/rft/shows/040813_1.mp3
TFAS: http://www.geocities.com/tfas060104/tfas_page.html

Talossa at the Age of Majority

by **MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHEÍR**

Every new citizen of Talossa has to write an essay on what Talossa means to them. In my mind, if we presume to judge a person on what Talossan means to them, we had to know what Talossa was supposed to mean to us.

Except Talossa doesn't have the same meaning for everyone, and I believe it is in that difference that the schism occurred.

With the recent secession of the Republic by some citizens of the Kingdom, I had to think hard about what Talossa meant for me in order to determine if I wanted to belong in the Kingdom or in the republic.

I called a few citizens of both sides, and tried to figure out exactly what it meant to be a Talossan.

For the Kingdom, it appears that Talossa is tradition, respect of the King, and monarchy. I am not just talking about one citizen. I spoke to a few Kingdom citizens or read their messages on Wittenberg (both forums, actually) and discovered a common thread. All the current citizens I contacted mention the King as the main reason for staying a Talossan.

We all know Mark Hamilton, and many accuse him of having a monarchy fetish because he blindly follows King Robert I in all his endeavors. But other examples are less well known.

When I first mentioned splitting the country in two, on Black Tuesday, I called Gary Cone. On that day, Gary was convinced that Talossa would die in its current form, and that it needed a major reform.

I frankly asked Gary : If Ben and Amy left, would all the problems be solved? While he agreed that Talossa would finally know peace, and while he agreed that all the fights



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implicated Ben, he also said he would leave Talossa if Ben left, because Talossa without Ben isn't Talossa.

I felt that Gary preferred to let Talossa die rather than lose its founder. Several other citizens of the Kingdom share his point of view.

In my philosophy, Talossa is a creation which can only reach its true potential once it is no longer bound by its creator.

I created a company which I still control, but if I die, I want it to survive. As long as I am alive and able to control it thought, I want to have power over it.

It is the same with the life of my daughter : her survival is in the hands of my wife and I, her parents. One day however, she will grow up enough to live on her own. If we let go, she will still respect and listen to us. But if we force our beliefs on her and impose a dictatorship on how she should rule her life, she will run away from us as soon as she reaches her majority, and possibly earlier. So, my goal is to raise her to become an

independent and strong woman who can face problems her own way.

In my opinion, Talossa isn't a company. It is alive, much like my daughter. And I believe that it has reached its age of majority, and now wants to live its own life.

For Talossa, this finally occurred with the founding of the Republic. On that secession day, many of the citizens said they no longer accepted being tutored. They wanted to grow away from Ben's control.

Right now, the Republic is like a young adult leaving his or her parental house for the first time in his life. Except that we have assets, and lots of them. We have many talented and dedicated citizens. We have a common sense of unity and responsibility. We have a common goal : to prove to the world that Talossa is a dream made true.

But that dream - the dream of a group, a community, a country where every citizen has decided to take the future of his nation into his own hands, and to fight to make it succeed - can only exist if everyone of us believes in it.

In Talossa, patriotism means something different than in traditional countries. Talossa will not defend your home. It will not offer you protection against foreign countries. It is fragile. Patriotism in Talossa is pure, it is selfless : it is having the courage to protect something, solely to let it live, not so that it will bring you protection, but so it can grow and live.

If everyone can see it that way, Talossa would become pure, away from the manipulations of people to control it. Away from a form of patriarchy which was required in the first few years, but grew obsolete. Away from the personal attacks. And that, my friends, is something powerful to believe in. ■

DOES THIS SOUND FAMILIAR?

[The following page contains extracts from an article entitled The Road to Jimstown. This was written by a group of oppositionists from an American far-left group called the Spartacist League in 1984, explaining why they had chosen to leave that group. Much of this may sound familiar to those of us who have been through the Talossan Revolution. Bits I find particularly interesting are in bold. - ed.]

[American leftist James] Cannon once remarked that if you get a few people in a room for long enough, they can talk themselves into practically anything. That observation increasingly guided the leadership as the SL's degeneration proceeded in the late 1970s. The "fights" became outright psychological gang-bangs.

Here's how it works in the SL. A meeting is called where the designated comrade is called to account for mistakes which he allegedly committed. Each item on the bill of particulars is grossly exaggerated and extrapolated; perfidious motivations (political and/or personal) are attributed. Incidental personal criticisms of the individual's mannerisms, lifestyle or demeanor are thrown in for good measure.

Those leading the attack typically do a good deal of histrionic screaming and posturing in order to create the proper emotionally-charged atmosphere. The assembled membership is expected to provide the chorus: repeating and embellishing on the accusations. (A reluctance to participate is punishable by being made the next point on the agenda.) Attempts by the accused to agree with the substance of the charges are initially dismissed as disingenuous and insincere, unless the hapless "star" of the proceedings is prepared to exceed all the others in vilifying

himself.

There is no beating the rap. If you can prove that some of the allegations are false, new ones are quickly invented. Or you are charged with using "lawyer's arguments" and attempting to obscure the overall picture by quibbling over "details." In some cases, the refusal of individuals involved to "come clean with the party" (i.e. confess to the charges) is itself taken as evidence of an anti-leadership attitude. After all, if you don't agree with the charges, then you must think the campaign against you is a bureaucratic atrocity!

Round after round, meeting after meeting, the "fight" continues until the object of the exercise gives up and hands in his resignation or confesses in what is deemed a suitably abject and contrite manner. Breaking down and crying is usually taken as evidence of sincerity, especially in men. The "fight" is then concluded with the unanimous passage of some harshly condemnatory motion. **Anyone fortunate enough to be deemed worthy of one last chance can expect to spend at least the next few months as a pariah.** Eventually there is a new victim and, with luck, the previous target can gradually recoup his status as a regular member. But the "lesson" is not quickly forgotten.

The leadership's shock therapy techniques are deliberately intended to break the personal and political self-confidence of those subjected to them. Usually the "fights" are aimed at potential "troublemakers"—the idiots and yes-men can usually be integrated without difficulty. The choice posed: to crawl or to leave the group ... is only a difficult one for those who take the politics seriously.

The purges in the SL gave a lot of little people the chance to vent their frustrations and "get even" for petty grievances (real or imagined) against the victims. Some joined in with a mixed sense of fear and excitement, glad not to be on the receiving end and anxious to demonstrate their regime-loyalty.

The most debased elements acquired new skills—interpretive accusation and cavalier disregard for the truth. They became masters of the art of the shrill and hysterical denunciation, and eagerly strained to be first on the round to jump on the back of each new victim. More experienced and decent people didn't really believe much of it but kept their eye on the "big picture" and tried not to get their hands any dirtier than necessary. They suppressed their qualms and tried to focus on whatever grains of truth they could find in the indictments.

Once widely regarded by [other left groups] as honest, serious and "orthodox," the SL today is perceived with equal justice as dishonest, nasty and nutty. James Cannon said that "it is perfectly possible for slick leaders to write ten constitutions guaranteeing freedom of criticism in a party and then create an atmosphere of moral terrorization". Robertson has set up precisely this kind of operation.

The purpose of such slander [...] is always the same—to discredit one's opponents without having to answer them politically. It also has the effect of "locking in" those members who participate. Every time someone engages in slander or violence against an opponent, he is much more closely to the degenerate leaders who ordered it. Even when people break with such an organization, most feel themselves so deeply compromised by their own participation in such practices that they tend to leave politics entirely. ■

What I Want To See In Our Constitution

By **MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ**,
member, Committee of the
Constitutional Convention

I realise that it might be stepping outside convention a bit (if you'll pardon the rather weak pun) for a member of the Committee who's supposed to be working up the constitution to ramble on at length in a newsmagazine [that she herself edits! - Ed.] about her vision of how she wants the damn thing to end up.

However, I don't really see any other way of getting my overall vision across in the current process than in essay format. When the process makes one of its periodic tiny lurches forwards - that is, when all four Committeepersons happen to be online within 24 hours of each other - the discussion all seems to be on the minutiae of constitutional law. No wonder we're all three-quarters asleep.

Well, enough with the cheap shots, anyway. This article is for me to give you the lowdown on how, if I were benevolent dictator around these parts, the Constitution of the Republic of Talossa would look...

Issue 1. DO WE REALLY NEED PROVINCES?

You'll note that I'm not asking do we *want* provinces. I think provinces are a good thing, in principle. The vision I always had of Talossan provinces is that they'd be like "training grounds" for important, national politics - that newbies or radicals, who we might not trust at the moment (or ever) with power at the national level, would be able to run loose in a province. Also, that the same would go for offbeat, not-entirely-approved cultural endeavour.

But let's face it, fellow citizens. *We don't have Provinces like that.*



Back in the Kingdom, there were only brief flurries of Provincial activity. This was mainly since, with rampant apathy towards provincial politics, all that ever happened was perhaps one nutbar would seize power in a Province and wield it howsoever he pleased until he got bored. There was no room for the cut-and-thrust of debate that made national politics interesting. As for cultural diversity... well, Evan Gallagher and I tried to see how that would work in practice back in '97. And we got stepped on so hard that no-one ever tried again.

I think all this should be different in the Republic. But we can't *make* it different. Going to great lengths to establish Provinces from the federal government level down would be, I believe, a waste of time, since they probably won't become active anyway. If people living in a province want to get it going, on the other hand, then by all means let them be supported. Which leads me to my next point...

Issue 2. DO WE NEED A SENÄTS?

I live in a country which functions perfectly well with a unicameral legislature. So why couldn't Talossa follow suit? I've seen no actual justification for having an upper house at all - except for the argument that it would give the Provinces representation. But if we don't **have** provinces that exist as anything more than lines on a map, what's the point of that?

Therefore, in my Barebones Framework, I came up with the idea that *the Senäts should only become active if the provinces become active*. If three Provinces get up and running, then by all means let's give them a chamber of Parlamint where they can have a say over legislation. This would have the great converse effect of *encouraging* active participation in the Provinces - if you could only get a Senäts seat by getting your province up and running.

But until then, can *anyone* answer for me - why do we *need* a Senäts? Especially when we might have trouble filling the Cosâ with competent people? Oh yeah, that's right, that's my third point.

Issue 3. MULTIPLE OFFICE PROHIBITION

It was an object of extreme vexation to me that in the Kingdom's system, you can be a member of both legislative chambers at once, and also in the High Court. (Yeah, I'll get onto the Cort later.) Imagine how ridiculous this would look in a "real country". A Congressman runs out of the House after losing a vote on a Bill, into the Senate where he votes against it again. After he loses there **again**, he runs to the Supreme Court, puts his judicial robe on and votes to strike the bill down.

The justification we were given back in the Kingdom for this was "we don't have enough competent people to fill Cosa and Senäts". Simple answer: *let's not have a Senäts* (until the provinces become strong enough to need a voice - by which stage, we should have more than enough active citizens for.)

And it should come as no surprise to anyone that I don't think Members of the Cosa should be

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allowed to be Justices, either. It is not *fair* that the law can be judged by the very people who made it - or, perhaps, voted against it. And what about the "not enough people" question, once again? Well, can anyone explain to me why a 20-person nationette needs a *three*-person High Cort? Surely one, or two, is enough for our purposes? Especially since we only want the best, most qualified person having final say over the interpretation of our laws - and he would *have* to be totally politically neutral.

Issue 4. PARTY LISTS AND A SECRET BALLOT

I think it's an elementary tenet of democracy that you should know who you're voting for. One of the most corrupting influences in the old Kingdom was the "blank cheque" electoral system - where the boss of each party would win a number of seats in the election, and afterwards

hand them out to whoever had voted for him. Oh, yes, and conduct revenge campaigns. Is it any wonder that it became almost impossible to defeat the King's party, when you knew how he would make your life a misery if he knew you were his political opponent?

A secret ballot is the fundamental, basic way to stop that kind of crap happening. In addition, we should adopt a new electoral system. The smallest acceptable change - that is, one that would not change *too* much how Talossans are used to voting - is a Party List system. That is, on the ballot next to each party's name would appear the list of people who would fill the seats they won. So, if the Gloria Estefan Revival Party were to win, say, five seats in an 11-person Cosà, the top five people on their party list would get into office. That way you would *know* who you were voting for - and the chance of corruption would be lessened.

controversy

(In Talossa, I think it would be acceptable if a candidate who so consented were allowed to be on more than one list. Some people are popular enough that every party would want them on board!)

Those are the four big issues which I think have to be tackled by the Committee, and the wider Convention. There are other good ideas, as well. I think that instead of a Presidential veto, the President should only have the right to refer a bill to the High Court - like in Ireland.

And frankly I'd also prefer the Irish Single Transferable Vote system - like we used to use in Penguinia - to a Party List system. But what I've outlined above is, I believe, *essential* for a lean, well-functioning, trustworthy democracy in our glorious free Republic. I hope to have your support in the Convention to make it happen. ■

"Tear Down This Wall!"

by DIETER HAMM

I now have to resist saying something like "Mr Chief Justice, tear down the wall" - because I would have like to express my congratulations to Miestrà on her citizenship in Talossa on the Talossan board, without any need to ask for admission.

Congrats to Miestrà, just for that one reason; congrats to Miestrà on the Talossan board, so that the Talossans can see that they are not considered the all-time "enemies" of us ex-Penguinians; and no bureaucracy for board admission, howsoever small or even tiny.

Looking back, I didn't join Penguinia in just one step. It was a process that took at least 3 months, from the first contact to "Protector" Evan to my final citizenship application. I kind of choose the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia for me, before said FCP was allowed to vote on me.

I don't know whether I'd want to join



the new Republic of Talossa; somehow I feel tickled to do so, because of the fun of it, because the friends in there, because of a certain flair of it, etc... most important would be friendships anyway, because that's the one reason for the extravaganza of nationette-building. IMHO.

I understand your concern. In the very beginning Polyphony started with a

password-protected board, too; after a while we added an open board for visitors. Since the spam to ham ratio remained low, we finally gave up on password protection.

So if I were a Talossan, I'd suggest to maintain a board with a name such as "Coney Island" or "Fisherman's Wharf" or "Pier thirtysomething", where all possible friends or critics of the Talossa(ns) can leave their tags.

Anyway, again: Mr Chief Justice and other "South-Talossans", consider to tear down the wall, open up Wittenberg, and see what will happen. You may miss some fun if you don't do it. ;-) ■

Dieter Hamm has been the Primat of the German micronation of Textor, as well as a member of the Penguinian legislature. His words are taken from a post on the Polyphony discussion group, and have been mildly edited to make up for the fact that English is his second language.

commentary

Nigh-on-three-months: How we're doing...

by JEFF RAGSDALE

Our citizens have stayed around, and apathy has not reared its ugly head, but the Non-Talossan-Life-Summer monster is willing itself into our consciousness with a vengeance. Our constitutional convention has come to a standstill in recent days, and Wittenberg has been... well.. *boring* as of late.

What's there to do about it? Well, for my part, I and Ian Anglatzara are working toward a good solution to the problem of mass-distributing emails with word docs and such to the Provisional Governing Council. And certainly, Radio Free Talossa has gotten off to a wonderful start, not to mention *Qator Itrins*. My own magazine, *Oraclâ*, which, ere our independence, had enjoyed a serious rejuvenation, is still on hiatus, though it might be well for



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me to tell my readers that officially. When I get some extra time, I will certainly see to that.

Simply put, everyone is busy because we all have vibrant non-Talossan things going on, and that has been what's been cramping our style recently. Once Labor Day rolls

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around, I look for things to pick up. I hope for an infusion of more former Talossans into our midst such as Eddie Abel, Jamila Cruciani, and T. Carter Ross.

One thing I also hope for is that we don't degenerate into the "I hate Ben" Club. I don't hate Ben Madison, though I, along with everyone else, is, of course, horribly disappointed (to put it mildly) in the things he did this spring to put us Founding Fathers (and Mummys) "over the edge", so to speak.

One thing that has come out in emails as of late, and I think I am safe in letting this cat out of the bag, is the need for our own "TalossaFest", our own gathering, in the Republic itself, of course, to which we could invite one or more citizens of the Kingdom. I should love to see Tomas and Jahn again, not to mention Cone and Brook. Meeting Wes Erni in person would be very good, indeed.

How are we doing? While we could be doing better, we are doing as well or better as realistic expectations would have us. Which is not a bad place to be in. Not bad at all. ■

WICKED QUESTIONS FOR THE MONTH...

1. What would happen if the Constitutional Committee were given Valium? Would time actually go *backwards*?
2. Would you be just as happy if we made the Republic a benevolent dictatorship?
3. If so, who gets to be dictator? [*The correct answer is, of course, "Miestrâ Schivâ" - Ed.*]
4. Is there *really* enough difference between Bush and Kerry for Gruber and Pope to be so *loud* at one another?
5. Is there *anything* our former monarch could do that would persuade the remaining Kingdomites leave?
6. Are your clocks accurate? What's the weather like where you are? [*This question is a paid advertisement from Ronalt Rosáis. - Ed.*]

GUIDALIGNHÂS PËR COMTRIBUCADÉIRS GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, newsarticles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month.
Sâ vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân!

QATOR✱ITRÌNS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, Nº.2

OCTOBER 2004

THE STATE OF THE REPUBLIC

How we stand, four months after Independence Day
by Jonathan Kelley

TALOSSA: STATE OR NATION?

An examination of Talossa's intrinsic identity
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THOSE WHO FORGET HISTORY...

An editorial on the Republic of Talossa
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END THE GREAT SERIOUSNESS

An exclusive book excerpt from *Dare Something Worthy*
by Chris Gruber

Kasimir Malevich, *The Aviator* (1914)

ALSO: news, editorial, wicked questions and MORE inside!

editorial

THOSE WHO FORGET HISTORY...

Our former monarch, as we all know, has a rather regrettable appetite for dragging the personal lives of his political enemies into debate. Chris Gruber was only the last in a long line of people on the receiving end of such treatment; I myself was part of that long line. Apparently, my personal life is of such great interest to the illustrious founder of the nation that he still finds it difficult to stop talking about it.

Never mind. Ben-bashing ain't what I'm here for today. The point I was making is that new and untrained citizens of the Kingdom tend to be so overawed with the undoubted achievements of Talossa (the twenty-five years of continuous history, *el glheß*, etc) that they tend to take whatever the King says at face value. Including his sometimes very warped opinions of his political enemies, past and present.

Our Secretary of State is currently making archival records of all the discussions on Wittenberg's current incarnation. Some of these earlier discussions happened to centre on yours truly, and the bizarrely prurient interest which our former monarch takes in my private affairs. Unfortunately, some current citizens of the Republic joined in the bashing. Thus, our Secretary was quite disturbed lest I read these ancient discussions and become aggrieved.

Rest assured, fellow citizens, it's not going to happen. I understand the emotional pressures to "join in" whenever Ben's going on one of his crusades. It's much easier to be "in" than "out" when the purge trials are going on (as the history of Stalinist Russia, and quite a number of political and religious cults, testifies). You'd have to truly be made of strong stuff to be able to face down the founder of the nation when he's telling you that those people over there are evil and should be shunned.

The important thing is how we relate to one another today, in the Free Republic. I honestly don't care what you might have said about me in order to fit in in the nasty, cultish atmosphere of the Kingdom, as long as you don't still hold such opinions. And I assume those of us who were also on the receiving end of hate campaigns in the Bad Old Days will have a similar attitude.

The past is the past, and we've all done things we regret. Let us not be ashamed of our past mistakes – but, rather, prove that we can learn from them. ■



MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ
Editor / Redactëir

A recording of part of this editorial (in Talossan) will soon appear on Radio Free Talossa.

Ûn aubümiçaziun d'iens pàrts d'acest edituriál bentôptapiarha siir Raídio da Talossa Liverescù.

dal redactëir

ACESTILOR QI OBLIENT LA BISTÔRIÂ...

Ár Regeu vienstîmp, sà noi toct sâpent, tent 'n tendençù bastânt malprûvat pèr surar las vidàs perziunâis da sieu enemici politicaís ainciün zebâts. Chirisch Caveír füt solamînt el dirnalaiset dîn 'n rif da xhînts qi reçaifevent tál tractadâ. Eu steçâ füt dîn acest rif. Cumpâts, va vidâ perziunâl întzereça el fundéir inlustriëu del Pâts sà mült qè o todavîa staxa qè c'è ûnfaßil sterminar en parlar.

C'è ûnîmpîrtînt. Verberar la Regeu non isch va pûrpös oxhi. Qèt eu intençëveu, c'è qè nouveux citaxhiëns del Regipâts sînt sovînt tál ziverberats par els acavamáintschen încuntraziviciâis da Talossa (els vaintsch-simcâ ârs da Bistôriâ continuînt, el glheß, é.s.p) qè os sovînt credent sânc fragâ qètevri zia el Regeu. Comprís sieu opiniuns, qualsetîmp tréi vârschâs, süper sieu enemici politicaís, del paßat és del presáintsch.

Ár Secretár d'Estat nûtîmp fâts müstáirs da tocts dals ziscußiuns dal cuncarnaziun modernâ da Wittenberg. Dals zicußiuns pû frûis, âvegñhençâmînt, conçernevent me steçâ, és la întereçù bizarrâmînt libid qè tent ár Regeu vienstîmp süper va afâes privâtsilor. Malfortunadâmînt, dels citaxhiëns nûtîmps dal Repúblicâ partiçipectent în el Miestrâ-verberar. Pèr aceastâ raziun, ár Secretár füt bastânt astûrat da cráintschâ qè eu liradreu acestilor zicußiuns anciînts és zevienarè ciuncadâ.

Estetz tranqîls, citaxhiëns cuncuriâis, acest non paßara. Eu cumprencheu els preßureux emoziunâis à "se aßociatar" quândevri la Regeu comença viens da sieu crutzadâs. C'è mült pû faßil estarè "în" qè "út" quând qè paßent las provâs c'hreinsadâs (come testifica la Bistôriâ da Rußia Stalinistâ, és da bastânt mült dels cûlts politicaís és relixhiösen). Si fost estarè façat da efnâ lâxhir, pèvârè înfuntar el fundéir dal Naziun quând o se zia qè acestilor xhînts là hëi sînt máis és fossent estarè escivats.

La cosâ împîrtînt isch come noi interelent oxhi, în la Repúblicâ Liverescù. Eu bonestamînt non cuntzineu qèt voi pût-estarè zirevetz pèr qè voi dëschevent în el schloc vèstuc'h cûltesc del Regipâts, proviut qè voi non adüc tenetz táis opiniuns. És eu presûmeu qè acestilor da noi qi ocsâ sofrievent campagñhâs da haßa în las Ziuâs Veâs Máis tiscent 'n atitüd similâr.

El paßat isch el paßat, és noi toct façevent cosâs qè noi regretent. Qè noi non séradrent ruschinats da ár focs paßats - más, propi, atestar qè noi povent lernar da lor. ■

CONSTITUTIONAL CONVENTION GOES HELL FOR LEATHER

By our own correspondent

The traditional torpidity of a Talossan summer is well and truly over, with a change of leadership at the top of the Constitutional Convention providing a controversial kickstart to the process of designing our basic law.

Michael Pope, Dean of the Provisional Governing Council, resigned his role as chair of the Committee in early September pleading excess work commitments. Into his place has stepped the frankly hyperactive Miestrâ Schivâ.

"There is no reason at all that, if we get our act together, we can't have a completed constitution and properly elected legislature, government and judiciary by the end of the year," said the new Committee head. "I aim to see that it happens."

Progress has indeed been swift since our last issue - in fact, too quick. The Convention looked to be heading speedily for consensus on the subject of the composition and function of Parlamînt - until Chirisch Cavêir returned from a sabbatical to be aghast at what had been going on in his absence.

As we go to press, the convention is voting on three vital issues. Whether to replace the traditional Talossan system of a "D&D Cosa" - where members of the lower house are awarded multiple seats - with a "One Member One Vote" system. Votes are also being taken on whether

the legislature should be bicameral; and, if so, on whether cross-membership should be allowed between the Houses.

After this comes the discussion on the relative size of Parlamînt to the population. Chairwoman Schivâ is in no doubt as to where her votes lie.

"The old Kingdom used to have a legislature too big for its size, leading to double-ups in its membership and that of the judiciary and leading to too much power in too few hands," explained Schivâ. "I want the legislature to start small - meaning that elections will mean something, and we don't have frankly undemocratic cross-membership, which gives some Members of Parlamînt extra-special powers."

The Convention has voted to retain its standing Committee, although its membership looks set to expand. Before Cavêir pushed his foot on the convention-brake, first drafts of the section on the composition of the Government and of the High Court had also been put in front of the conveyor belt of a frankly startled Convention.

If Schivâ's wishes come true, we could have an entire new Constitution to analyse for you by the time this magazine reaches its third issue. Watch this space. ■



CULTURAL CORNER

● In July next year, free Talossans from around the globe may descend on the ancestral homeland for the biggest social event since the orgies which accompanied the last days of Rome. Provisional Secretary Jeff Ragsdale has tentatively suggested an "Independencefest", celebrating the Republic's first year of existence, on the model of the successful Talossafests which have characterised the Kingdom's history. Ragsdale hopes that Talossans from as far away as Sweden or New Zealand will be invited to participate.

● The Republic's other main media outlet, Radio Free Talossa, now has its own website at <http://rft.talossa.net/>. While no new issues of the current events show Stubborn Things have been produced yet, there are several episodes of Chris Gruber's "retro-sci-fi" radio serial, Crash Lunar, for your amusement and enlightenment. ■

THE BIRTH OF A NEW WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

By MARTÌ-PAÍR FURXHEIR

Traditionally, Talossan publications have mostly been newspapers relating the recent events in the nation, generally with a subjective point of view.

Qator Itrîns tries to break away from these types of reports, since they mostly echo the day to day activities which Wittenberg users know all about anyway. This way, QI is able to present new, fresh content not present elsewhere.

However, because something is published on Wittenberg doesn't mean every citizen got the chance to see it, or even to grasp its importance. This is why *Qator Itrîns* press is proud to announce the foundation of a new weekly Talossan newspaper : *La Repùblicâ*.

Unlike it's predecessors, *La Repùblicâ* will be dynamically generated using a content management system, enabling it's writers to submit articles online, reviewer to corrects and approve these, and our publisher to easily send the newspaper to all it's subscribers, who can easily manage their subscription online.

La Repùblicâ will feature reviews of the most recent events in the Republic in a few short paragraphs to help, in a few minutes, grasp the events of the week. Articles are expected to be shorter than 150 words, unless they cover a major event.

From time to time, longer articles will be published, when they focus on what's happening right now.

A economic section will publish exclusive weekly calculations on the Talossanomy not available elsewhere, since all of our indices are daily calculations.

We expect to publish the newspaper every week, on Thursdays, with a deadline for submission on Tuesday evening, except for reviewers, who will have until Wednesday evening.

La Repùblicâ's editor-in-chief is Martì-Páir Furxheir. ■

Talossa's Newest Political Party –

THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS

A Qator Itrîns Exclusive

The Republic's political establishment has been rocked to its foundations by the birth of a new political party, jointly headed by two citizens who would have once described themselves as deadly enemies. The new party, the Social Democratic Party of Talossa (PSD), positions itself firmly on the Left of Talossan politics. Chirisch Caveir has been named as Party President, and Miestrâ Schivâ as Party Secretary.

The new party has raised eyebrows, teaming as it does a revolutionary socialist with a supporter of John Kerry. But the new Party Secretary denies that this is a divergence too great to contain.

"Chirisch and I have had our differences in the past", says Ms Schivâ, "and we're hardly politically homogenous in the present. But, given the preponderance of conservative opinion in the Republic, I think that everyone on the Left has to band together for their own safety."

The PSD, while the first party to publish a full platform (printed to the right) is the fifth party to announce itself since the birth of the Republic. It joins the Labour Party (led by Rischâ Scovaglh), the Guelph Party (led by Michael Pope), the Religious Right (led by J.P. Griffin) and Ronalt Rosaís' MAWMS2LCNVPR. *(Unfortunately, this column was too small to contain the full name of the the last mentioned party. - Ed.)*

Platform of the Talossan Social Democratic Party / Platform del Parti Sociâl Democrätic Talossán

The Talossan Social Democratic Party is open to all Talossans who desire a strong, democratic Republic which builds on twenty-five years of Talossan history, where all points of view are welcome, and where all Talossans can participate in continuing to build our noble national culture.

The Talossan Social Democratic Party is open to all Talossans who believe in:

· a strong, democratic Republic, built in the best traditions of twenty-five years of Talossan history and culture;

· a Republic where all points of view are welcome, and where all Talossans can participate in continuing to build our noble national culture;

· a Republic which will be open to the best ideas from all the nations of the world in our nation-building endeavours, both macro- and micro-.

The PSD is founded by Talossans who describe themselves as Socialists and Democrats. However, it believes that Talossan issues, rather than macronational politics, should determine your vote.

PARTI SOCIÁL DEMOCRÄTIC TALOSSÁN
The men, no machines, can govern, except by country's laws.



...for people and a free university will, then all, of free nations dedicated to Talossan studies.
TALOSSAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATIC PARTY

Party Principles

The five principles on which Talossan Social Democracy is based are Freedom, Equality, Community, Culture, and Democracy.

These principles are at the centre of the policies that the Talossan Social Democratic Party has offered to the Talossan people. These are the values which will rule our major campaigns and our political activity whether in opposition or in Government.

The Talossan Social Democratic Party is committed to representing the ideals of our movement in Government and ultimately we aim to be the majority party in la Repùblicâ Talossán.

Freedom is a fundamental human right. No society is free unless the men and women who make up that society are free individuals. Apathy, hostility, and ignorance are the enemies of freedom. The TSD extends the same freedom to all members of society and opposes the victimisation of individuals on the basis of class, colour, creed, religion, sex, sexual orientation, race, or ethnic origin. **We will**

work to nationalise the domain name and web-space of the Talossan Republic, for the security and freedom of the whole community.

Equality implies reorganising society with the specific object of creating a more equal distribution of power, and not just opportunities for individuals to become powerful. The Talossan Social Democratic Party sees equality not only in Talossanomic terms but also in terms of social, political, and Talossanomic rights. It is necessary for the individual to enjoy these rights under the law if there is to be full and true equality.

Social Democracy realises that men and women by necessity and by choice live in co-operation with each other. In the community or the social club there is a common sense of belonging and of purpose, not only in the Republic, but also in the micronational world. The spirit of Community places TSD on the side of the oppressed, not only in the Republic of Talossa but also in all countries of the world. As a result of these beliefs, **we would establish foreign relations with serious, stable micronations, with a view towards establishing the Republic as a superpower in the micronational world, including acting as a mentor to developing micronations.**

Culture in Talossa means our rich history and rich language, el Glheß. The TSD will fight to establish an Academy of Arts and Sciences, to write trustworthy history and promote the Talossan language. **We will also call for an open culture, one in which all Talossans and ex-Talossans of good will, whether Republican, Royalist or non-aligned, will be welcome in the Republic's cultural endeavours.**

Democracy is fundamental to the concept of giving power to people to shape their own lives. This empowering of people should cover all aspects of life, including culture, politics, and justice. **Toward this aim, we will work to push for a Constitution as democratic and just as can possibly be.**

If you support where we stand, and want to make a difference in the Republic, then join us! ■

IS TALOSSA A STATE, OR A NATION?

By MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHEIR

Even today, there is much confusion in the world between the words “state” and “nation”.

A state is a sovereign legal geo-political entity with a precise territorial claim, and which is generally recognized as being sovereign. Most states are universally recognized, but several grey areas exist, the most notable being China, more precisely around the issue of Taiwan. Only states have the right to hold a seat in the United Nations, which is in reality a union of states, instead of being a union of nations.

The nation concept, on the other hand, is less clear in English. In the Shakespeare tongue, specially in the USA, nation is also a term used to refer to the people who live in a state. However, in international politics, the definition of nation is “a group of people who share common customs, origins, history, and frequently language”.

Many countries are composed of a single major nation, such as the USA, France, Germany, Australia and Japan. But many countries, such as Great Britain (which has 4 major nations) and Canada (which has two major nations) are multi-national.

In fact, in Québec (the Canadian province in which most of the French-Canadian nation lives) the term “national” refers to the Québec province. When referring to Canadian institutions, the term “federal” is used instead.

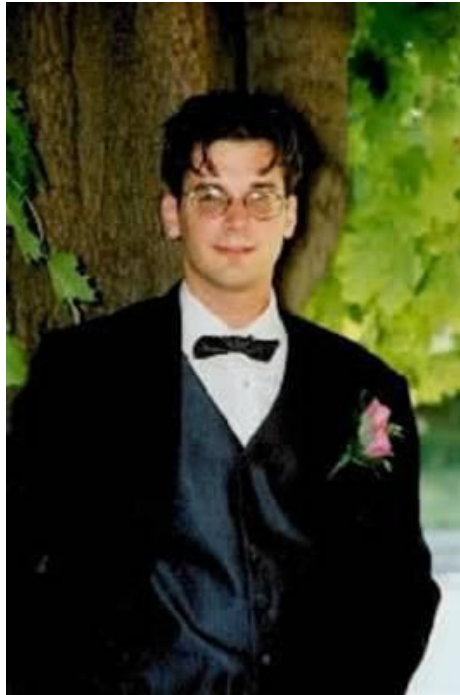
In some cases, especially Africa, a nation is spread across several states, because the colonizing European powers decided to ignore the existing states and to form new artificial ones over the existing colonized states.

But the most interesting nation is the Jews. Nowadays, Jews have a state, Israel, in which they are the sovereign nation. However, the Jewish nation is bigger than the border of Israel, or Palestine for that matter. Many Jews live in North America, Europe or Russia and still have a common custom, origin and history.

Such a nation was able to exist thanks to strong cultural beliefs (in this case, religious) coupled with a strong sense of tradition.

Without these, in a world without instant communications, the Jewish culture would have diversified too much to allow the reunification of Jews living all over the world in a single state.

Québec and France may have been a single nation in the past, but despite strong attachments, a common religion and language,



MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHEIR is the webmaster of talossa.com, talossa.net and the administrator of the Wittenberg discussion forums.

the two nations have definitely split, with distinct values, history, culture and even distinct dialects.

But today, in a world of communication, it is possible for nations geographically spread around the globe to stay in touch on a daily basis, and keep common values, goals and even a common history.

It is also possible for non-independent nations, or multi-state nations, to form governing bodies of their own, despite their lack of sovereignty. While these governments do not have absolute authority over their constituents, they often have a “moral” authority respected by the members of the nation despite their lack of legal standing.

In Québec for example, the Catholic church had until recently the authority to dictate a lot of rules affecting the lives of French-Canadians, despite the official separation of the state and the church. Most citizens respected them, and the Government even adjusted it's law to respect some of the rules such as closing stores on Sunday.

It has also occurred in the past, especially during wars, for a nation-state to lose its territorial sovereignty, such as during military occupation. In many of these cases, those states organization a free government in a foreign state, such as when the Dutch government fled to Canada.

The policy of the Kingdom of Talossa has

always been that Talossa was a state aspiring to sovereignty.

However, one must recognize that an aspiring state has no power, no authority, no existence on its own for the simple reason that what defines a state is the recognition by other states that it has sole sovereignty on its territorial claims. Nations on the other hand, whether they are also a state or not, have inherent legitimacy provided by it's member “citizens”.

Furthermore, nations themselves determine which rules are required for a person to belong to them. For the French-Canadian nation, one only need to be Canadian, and consider French to be their mother tongue (thought in the past, one needed to be Roman Catholic). For the Jewish nation, one needs to be of the Jewish religion and culture.

Nations do not need external recognition, since their creation is internal. The members of the nation simply proclaim their common heritage.

I believe that Micro-nations (which should be called Micro-states) fail because they focus primarily on the state part of their movement, completely neglecting the nation part of their association.

The Kingdom of Talossa had developed strong state institutions and has held more general elections than most democracies. But, culturally speaking, it failed to motivate citizens to form national institutions, with Wittenberg being our only really common cultural trait.

I think it is time to change that. I am not saying we should abandon our legislature, or stop aspiring to be a state, but rather that we should try to form a real cultural identity shared amongst us. It should be something we can all identify with, and not something imposed such as a Berber background or a has-been national entertainer.

Radio Free Talossa and *Qator Itrins* are a start. QI already has several regular collaborators, and RFT is trying to enable radio broadcasts with multiple participants.

But we all have to understand that such a common identity is not forced. It will come unexpectedly after participation is shared projects. After collaboration and exchanges, slowly, we will start forging bonds of a cultural nature. We will remember stories obtained through interaction with other Talossans on non-political subjects. We will start having a real cultural history. Not one just listing election results and political fights.

And that is all it takes to become a nation.■

THE BIRTH OF THE GREY CONGRESS PARTY

(Qator Itrins is pleased to begin a series of extracts from the forthcoming History of the Talossan Revolution, Dare Something Worthy by Christopher Gruber. This extract is from the first chapter, dealing with the events of November 2002/XXIII. - Ed.)

It all started with some Photoshop.

Not Adobe Photoshop proper, really, but the much easier to use software application from the fine folks at Macromedia called Fireworks. Chris Gruber somehow found himself in a retro mood, as he often does during the course of the year, but, this time, it was different somehow. This time, he was perusing the photographs of pompous and bombastic generals and colonels of fascist regimes of the 1930s. A strange place to be, granted, but he was there nonetheless.

The Kingdom of Talossa has a long and grand tradition of flirting with fascist imagery, going back to its roots. Robert Ben Madison, the founder of the nationette, single-handedly brought this fascination to Talossa. The crisp, neat uniforms, the proud, crowing anthems, the taut marching formations... it was all such wonderful stuff to him. And his friends. From the glorification of Enver Hoxha and Kemal Atatürk to the pseudo-fascist parties of his friends, the idea that taking the most fun of the fascist parties and reveling in it for the sake of fun was appealing to Ben. This had such a strong appeal that twenty-two years later, the fascination still softly hung in the Talossan air. And Chris Gruber picked up the scent (so to speak) on 13 November 2002.

Gruber decided to paste his own face on that of the celebrated (in word, song, and province) *il Duce* himself, Benito Mussolini. You know, just to see what it would look like. As it turned out, Gruber, an experienced professional web and graphic designer, managed to make the photo

look like Gruber himself was persuading the Italian crowds with his own vehement style. Gruber could not help but smile at such a preposterous but amusing idea. But it was when he showed it to his good friend Tomás Gariçéir that the fabric of Talossa had begun to unravel, unbeknownst to anyone at the time.

Gariçéir had himself a sense of humour that crossed easily into the dark. So these two photos of Gruber/Mussolini were absolutely hilarious. "Do me next!" he demanded, expecting that Gruber would paste Gariçéir's head onto some random photo of fascists. But the job Gruber did was pretty damn good and thoroughly impressed both of them. The next step was obvious: *Wittenberg*.

Wittenberg had been the Kingdom's public forum online since 1997, and, as such, served as a Talossan show-and-tell from time to time. Gruber showed off his handiwork, which immediately got rave reviews. Much of the praise came from King Robert himself. People who had been incensed with Gruber's angry outburst decrying the death of any sense of fight in the American Democratic Party earlier in the month¹ were now singing his praises. Ián Metáiriâ and Michael Pope, whose own political leanings outside of Talossa tended rightward, were reveling in the spoof.

Gruber and Gariçéir then began tossing wackier ideas around, such as the idea of splitting off from the Progressive Conservative Party to which they both belonged and forming a silly political party full of pomp and bombast, solely for the amusement of themselves and anyone else who cared to watch. So they began brainstorming. The name they settled on was the Grey Congress Party or GCP.

The GCP was not originally intended to be a serious party. Gariçéir was not one who could easily stomach the harder edges of political life, having ducked away from the Progressive Conservatives (PC) once before in 1998 during a particularly heated campaign in which Gruber himself was running as the PC's candidate for Prime Minister (*Seneschál* in the Talossan language or *glheß*), which he eventually won. But 1998 was a long ways away in Talossan time (one theory of "Talossan years" holds that each year of regular time in the world is three or four in Talossa), and Gariçéir was unusually easy to forget his hurt, despite being particularly sensitive. Gruber, the harder-edged person, was not only used to fighting verbally, he had earned himself a reputation as someone who would easily slip into vulgar language simply as a matter of course. It also helped that politics was one of his main interests in Talossa. But the Talossan political landscape was growing particularly stagnant. The PC was a monolithic beast, containing the memberships of socialists, former neo-Nazis, conservative Republicans, religious Republicans, and moderately liberal Democrats. The ancient Wes Erni-ism "pot-pie blob," which described this amorphous configuration of dissimilar folks in a single party, was resurrected, most prominently in Jeff Ragsdale's newspaper of record, *L'Oraclâ*.

So, inadvertently, the Grey Congress Party slipped into serious politics when Gruber insisted that they put up a legitimate platform. Gariçéir, eager to go along with his more assertive pal, gave in, and by the end of the month, they had a workable platform and the fifty-word statement required by law in order to register for the upcoming general election. It's odd how a single amusing idea would turn into a legitimate political party platform, replete with all the flowery

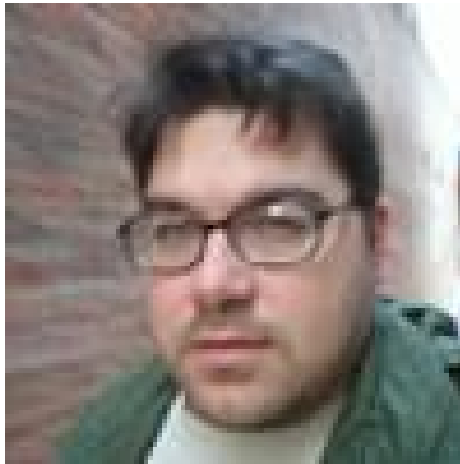
Bistôriâ

language and rhetoric associated with most Talossan parties. They were really going to do it; they were going to split from the Progressive Conservative Party and they were going to contest the election.

The GCP platform was pretty straightforward, mostly aimed at what they called “ending the Great Seriousness” (stopping all the talk of ‘real-world’ politics that was causing distress all over Wittenberg) and a strong pro-*glheß* programme. They had some starry-eyed ideas, but they never thought their actions would be the first salvos in a political and social war that would ultimately rend Talossa herself in two.

Now, granted, they were not the only ones plotting and scheming. King Robert and his pal Wes Erni were working for weeks in secret to resurrect Erni’s long-defunct Black Hand Party (*La Mhà Nheagrâ*, or MN in Talossan).² Their agenda, however, was serious and politically motivated from the outset. Their platform was crisper and more forceful, but shared something in common with the GCP: both were happily nationalistic, with a strong pro-culture platform. When the GCP announced itself on 4 December and the MN followed up the next day, Talossa suddenly found herself with not one, but two nationalistic fringe parties!

Ironically enough, Jeff Ragsdale was the nation’s fresh-faced new Prime Minister, ready to make his mark, having just taken over the job from the PC’s long-serving Michael Pope a few months earlier. In fact, Ragsdale had just applied for PC membership about a week before Gruber and Gariçeir made their first moves.³ So, just as Ragsdale was easing into the job (which was not much of a challenge, as evidenced by the complaints he offered in a *L’Oraclâ* commentary⁴), the landscape was changing, without the knowledge of the powerful, much less the majority of Talossans. Misty speculations



CHRIS GRUBER is Chief Justice of the Provisional Supreme Court of the Republic of Talossa, and was a leader of the Revolution.

abounded on *Wittenberg* and in the pages of *L’Oraclâ*. What was the next big thing? Would anyone ever be able to stop the monolithic PC? Where is the next fire in Talossan politics going to burn?

The answer came in the form of the two fringe parties, each scrabbling to carve their niche as *the* nationalistic party in Talossa: the MN with its imagery of secretive crime families and the GCP with its own bizarre set of pseudo-fascist imagery, an indirect descendent of Ián Metáiriâ’s Talossan Nationalist Party (TNP). Instantly the GCP platform was challenged, especially their call for a moratorium on discussion of U.S. politics. Although their intention was to “End the Great Seriousness,” they had cries from all over the Talossan political spectrum of “fascism” and “censorship.”⁵ They were clearly amateurs in the land of Talossan politics, it seemed. A quick re-editing of the first plank of the platform could not save them from the effects of Gruber’s temper (who felt legitimately provoked by Ben Madison of the MN and Ken Oplinger of the ZPT). They were off to a rocky start.

It’s not to say that Chris Gruber had such a violent, virulent temper that it could neither be controlled nor contained, nor that it would be the leading factor in the unraveling of the

history

Great Talossan Political Fabric. His temper was a reflection of his clinical depression, to be sure, and was less a cause of the rift and more of a weak spot exploited by those who were looking for weak spots in others. It’s a common tactic to assess the other players in a game, for example, and to make note of their weakness, their security holes, as it were. But Gruber’s temper was a security hole the size of a Land Rover and had big, bright neon signs pointing to it. As Jeff Ragsdale was later to sort of put it, Chris Gruber’s temper was merely part of the powder-keg that set off Talossa.⁶■

FOOTNOTES

1 *L’Oraclâ* #3, 8 November 2002, “Progressive Conservatives in a bit of a turmoil”: “The person who responded to the Benefactor News Service post was letting off steam. That’s all.”

2 *Wittenberg*, 5 December 2002 18:59:31 EST, quoted in *L’Oraclâ* #12: “Wes and I believe that Talossan politics would be a lot more interesting if we had more Talossan issues to discuss, and the formation of the Black Hand, which was in the works for weeks even before the ‘Grey Congress’ was formed, is our way of injecting some good ol’ Talossan excitement into this campaign.”

3 *L’Oraclâ* #3, 8 November 2002, “Prime Minister Ragsdale applies for PC membership!!”

4 *L’Oraclâ* #3, 8 November 2002, “The Prime Minister does not Like Pot Pie”: “This week’s Stoufferian Witt thread makes me wonder if, perhaps, the PC is getting *bored* with itself.”

5 *L’Oraclâ* #12, 6 December 2002, “Political rhetoric heats up and then cools down”

6 *Wittenberg*, “RE: Death threats,” message # 9970, 11 April 2004: “But once you and Amy and Chris met in person, the huge pile of black powder was set, and if the Halloween Crisis had not come about to make the powder [sic] explode, something else at some other time would have. It was only a matter [of] time.”

The State of the Republic So Far

JOHNATHAN KELLY is a member of the Committee of the Constitutional Convention of the Republic of Talossa.

What do we leave behind, what do we bring, and what do we create? I see those as the questions that will ultimately define the Republic of Talossa.

We leave behind a shadow government, one person controlling an unbeatable voting bloc beholden only to him, backed by a battery of constitutional weapons and vindictive to the point of pathology. We leave behind the blinders that kept many of us from seeing that reality until we ourselves became the targets. We leave behind a place that once mattered to all of us, though, a part of our heritage and thus our individual life experiences.

We bring with us dynamism: a mandate for change. We bring with us many lessons, not all negative in nature by any means, as to what works and what doesn't. We bring that heritage, the connection to a concept over two decades old. We bring a rich language, a turbulent history, old friendships and not merely online friendships. The eagerness of Talossans to meet in person whenever opportunity arises - and, for that matter, the fact that it so far predates the Internet - gives Talossa a reality that can never accrue to the Grand Duchy of Scrotopia, or the Principality of Perversia, or whatever other short-lived micronation some bored teen copycat grandly proclaims. So what should we be creating? This is only fun if friendship and politics remain in balance, a fact we must



never forget. Take the Constitution. We differ over how to write one, who should write it, whether it should be simple or exhaustive, nearly every aspect: all healthy differences of opinion. We must see that those differences do not wreck the national unity. Some of us bring heavy baggage from the Kingdom; probably all of us have some. It will not always be that way. One day we of the days of Talossa's "Green and Red October" will be the Old Growth, outnumbered by the modern cybercits with no real experience of the Kingdom. When that day comes, we must not be the crud that clogs the nation's arteries. Only through openness, healthy differences of opinion and zest for growth can the Republic achieve its potential.

What we should be creating, in short, is a micronation with all that was good

and admirable about the Kingdom of Talossa, yet free of all its ills. May every citizen of the Republic exert his or her best effort in that direction. ■

THE REVIEWS ARE IN!

"I just gotta say I read the QI paper and want to say I'm impressed. More than impressed, zealously and emphatically impressed." - Greg Tisher

"I must say that I am VERY proud to have published an article in this fine newspaper." - Marti-Pair Furxheir

"Holy Shit! Miestrâ, me lass... The Qator is totally bitchin'! Much impressment over here. Nicely, very nicely done, oh M.-one." - Andy Lowry

"Well done! Very entertaining, and (need I say) well written. I hope this will inspire some of our members who are looking for the micronational experience to consider joining Talossa."

- Evan Gallagher, former SoS and Deputy PM of Talossa, now leader in the Polyphony community

"This Talossan magazine is excellent guidance for Lavalon, should we ever decide to have a magazine. The article on the constitution and the article about provinces were especially relevant to Lavalon, who has gone through the transition from monarchy to republic as well."

"The Talossan language segments were inspirational to me as they showed that a conlang can be used normally. Kudos to the republican Talossans!"

"The PDF is now required reading for Lavalon's APK Party."

- "Xon", Vice-President of the Republic of Lavalon.

GUIDALIGNHÂS PËR COMTRIBUÇADÉIRS GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, newsarticles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. Sà vivadra la Repùblicâ Talossân!

QATOR✪ITRÌNS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, Nº.3

NOVEMBER 2004

THE UNIVERSITY OF CALUMNY

The Madison School of Falsification

by Miestrâ Schivâ

LEGITIMACY IN MICRONATIONS

How firm are our convictions as a nationette?

by Martì-Pàir Furxhéir

WHAT PROVINCIAL IDENTITY?

One TalossMan's theory

by Martì-Pàir Furxhéir

HERE GROWS TOGETHER WHAT BELONGS TOGETHER

Unifying the Republic and the Commonwealth?

by Miestrâ Schivâ

ALSO: news, editorial, wicked questions and MORE inside!

"HERE GROWS TOGETHER, WHAT BELONGS TOGETHER"

The words which form the title of this article were first uttered by Richard von Weisäcker, President of the Federal Republic of Germany, on the occasion of his country's reunification after more than forty years of division and cold war. These words were used again by (at time of writing) the most recent citizen of our free Republic, Dieter Hamm, who happens to be German. And the more I thought about them, the more they seemed apposite.

Dieter and I were both once citizens (and legislators) of the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia. For those of you who don't know your history, Penguinia was a kind of "fore-runner" of our Republic, in that it was founded in 1997 by political refugees from King Robert's anti-democratic aggression. However, since we numbered no long-term Talossans among our membership, we decided against laying claim to the Talossan cultural heritage. The saga of how we spent almost three years working on our own culture only to dissolve in mutual recrimination is a story that should be told - some other time.

So, we didn't think of ourselves as Talossan any more - and since Dieter was never a Talossan himself, I was surprised that he saw a kind of "red and green thread" running through our history. But Dieter pointed out to me that, try as we might, Penguinia could not get away from the circumstances of our foundation - even by the end, when the ex-Talossans were a tiny minority. We built our political system and our culture around the collective memory of tyranny and of the Exodus from it; even those of us who'd never been under that tyranny.

Chris Gruber said that "once a Talossan, always a Talossan". Scarily enough, that now seems to apply to Penguinians as well. This is very surprising to me. But the more I think about it, the more it seems logical - and therefore, right that we should be reunified in the Republic with the other fragments of the Talossan democratic tradition.

Two of the Penguinians have now rejoined the "mother country" - and, fingers crossed, there are more to follow. We see here the reunification of the fragments of a cultural tradition sundered almost a decade ago by the intolerance of its founder. Throughout the years of persecution, we Penguinians (almost against our will) kept the idea of a democratic, tolerant Talossa alive, until the founders of the Republic proved capable of stepping up and bringing it into reality. Let's hope we do continue to grow together.■



MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ Editor / Redactéir

A recording of part of this editorial (in Talossan) will soon appear on Radio Free Talossa. Ûn aubûmîcaziun d'iens pârts d'acest editoriâl bentôpt apiarha sîir Raîdio da Talossa Liverescù.

politicâis dal athgreßurâ contrademocrâtic del Regeu Rôibeard. Com'evri, parç qê noi tigñhòvent aucîns Talossâes iresoluvâis starp âr membreux, noi zeçidevent contrâ revîndicar el tgeritâx culturâl da Talossa. La sagâ ôver come noi tiennent paßats prescâ tres ârs travâlînds ôver âr culturâ proprâ anâintsch fluëschar în delatoûr mutuêir isch 'n stôriâ qî fost estarê ziradâ - qualse'împ ôthreu.

Sâ, noi non pû se considerevent estarê Talossâes - ès, parç qê Dieter steçeu nuncâ fût 'n Talossân, eu fût supriçadâ q'o videvent qualse'cosâ come 'n "fil roxh-ès-vîrt" cûriatînd trâns âr tgistôriâ. Mâs Dieter tent spunat a mhe qê, com'evri noi atentevent, Penguinia nuncâ tent pêvat escarpâ dals circonstanças d'âr fundamâintsch - mismâ âl fim, quând els ex-Talossâes fûvent 'n minorità pic'hotsch. Noi tiennent constructat âr sîstêm politicâl ès âr culturâ circûm la memoraziun colectîu dal tûrôntimeriâ ès dal Partença d'êiâ; mismâ acestilor da noi qî nuncâ tiennent sofriats d'acest tûrôntimeriâ.

Chirischtoval Cavêir tent zirat qê "viens fâts 'n Talossân, toctziuâ 'n Talossân". Aßêi spaventîndmînt, acest nûîmp sembla aplicar ocsâ âls Penguiniâes. Acest me supriça mûlt. Mâs el pû q'eu penseu ôver êiâ, el pû qê ça sembla loxhicâl - ès pêr aceastâ razîun, corêct qê noi fossent estarê revîennînds în la Repûblica cûn els framâintschen ôthreux dal tradiziun Talossân democrâtic.

Douâ dels Penguiniâes nûîmp tiennent revîensiçats âl "anavatân" - ès, esperançîndmînt, pû sovarhent. Vêiçi la revîennînd dels framâintschen d'iens tradiziun culturâl tzavradâ ja prescâ 'n decâdi par la ûntoleraziun da sieu fundêir. Partû els ârs dal perzecuziun, noi Penguiniâes (prescâ contrâ âr pedîit) guardevent à vhidâ l'idéâ d'iensâ Talossa democrâtic ès tolerapûnt, txuscâ els fundêirs dal Repûblica pogñhevent ariçar ès la façarê vrâts. Qê noi esperent qê noi continuarhent grûltîçar ensemblâ.■

MOCTS ÛNAUTGORISATS DEL GLHETG TALOSSÂN

"Aici grûltîçînt ensemblâ, els qî ensemblâ apoartînt." Acestilor mocts estevent rostats pîrmalaiset par Richard von Weisäcker, Presidînt dal Repûblicâ Federâl da Tzaratûtsch, âl ocaziun del revîennînd da sieu pâts osprêi cearêinçe ârs dal ziviçaziun ès zucriâ fred. Acestilor mocts estevent uçats 'n altreu fâts par (al tîmp da scriuarê) el citaxhiên pû reciînt d'âr Repûblicâ liveradâ, Dieter Hamm, qî âvegñhençamînt isch Tûtsch. Ês el pû q'eu pensevêu ôver lor, el pû q'os semblevent apropiâtsilor.

Dieter ès eu estevent bevôr embû citaxhiêns (ès mimbrequ del lexhislâtûr) del Estât Comûn Liverat da Penguinia. Pêr acestilor da voi qî non sapevent voastrâ tgistôriâ, Penguinia fût qualse'cosâ come 'n "antenat" d'âr Repûblicâ, aschnavôn qê ça fût fundat în 1997 par refûxhiats

noveschti

WHO'S HARRASSING WHO, YOUR MAJESTY?

A QI special investigation

"Dan and I talked yesterday and he agreed with me that the splitters [i.e. the citizens of liberated Talossa] have a strategy to harass [monarchy-loyal] Talossans by e-mail."

So said R. Ben Madison, self-styled King of Talossa, on the discussion group for those remaining Talossans still loyal to him on the 22nd October. However, this claim has met with derision from Republican Talossans - who'd say that just the opposite is true.

Marti-Páir Fuxhéir, upstanding republican, had this to say in the Constitutional Convention exactly two weeks before Madison's claim:

*"Ben sent me over **five** [emphasis added - Ed.] e-mails yesterday saying that I am a sore loser, and that I single-handedly started the Republic, mounting everyone against the poor innocent citizens of the Kingdom ONLY because I was losing the election, and that the others followed me only because they are afraid to be shut off of Talossa."*

"He says that people just back me up because they are afraid I will delete their accounts if they contradict me... Ben tells me that people follow me only out of fear."

Republicans rushed to reassure Fuxhéir of his value to free Talossa, and to suggest that for Madison to accuse escapees from his tyranny of being "sore losers" was ironic in the extreme. QI editor Miestrâ Schivâ even suggested a formal resolution of condemnation of the former King to the Provisional Governing Council.

However, many citizens opposed this on the grounds that it would only embroil the Republic in a shouting match with their ex-monarch. "Every action we take against them and every communication



R. Ben Madison reads out a royal edict cancelling Christmas.

with them will only serve to entangle us more," said long-term anti-monarchist stalwart Ián Anglatzarâ. At time of writing, the question of a formal protest remains unresolved.

Schivâ suggests that Madison's claim that long-term and respected Kingdom citizen Dan Lorentz agrees with him is probably not to be trusted either. "We know that recently reported anti-Republic quotes from other citizens of the Kingdom were wholly fabricated by the King," she commented. "And they aren't happy about it."

Less dogmatic citizens of the Kingdom have also publically protested Madison's continuous demonisation of Republicans - in particular, his description of the Revolution of June 1st as a terrorist atrocity similar to the destruction of the World Trade Centre in 2001. Despite this campaign of over-the-top slander, many citizens of the Kingdom enjoy friendly relations with Republicans, and even partake in our discussions on Wittenberg on occasion.

"Talossans may have learned from the experience of the Penguinian secession that Madison's attacks on "traitors" eventually turn into witchhunts against his domestic political opponents," says Schivâ. "Even those loyal to the monarchy seem to be now refusing to take their monarch's anti-Republican diatribes seriously. It's very heartening."■

More on the Madison School of Falsification on page 5 of this issue.

news

NEW CITIZENS SWELL THE NATION'S RANKS

The Republic has been pleased to admit two new citizens to its ranks in the past month. **Bill Cooper**, a long-standing citizen of the Kingdom who quit in disgust at the King's persecution of the opposition earlier this year, was readmitted in celebration. Cooper, while not present during the Revolution, may have the honour of being responsible for inspiring it. Former Secretary of State Göðafriður Válcadác'h has said Cooper's renunciation of citizenship "opened his eyes" to the true state of affairs in the Kingdom. Cooper has been so popular that immigration rules were relaxed slightly for his convenience while he prepared for major surgery.

Dieter Nānoc'hfighleu Vercáriâ, resident of Frankfurt-am-Main, Germany, has become the first citizen of the Republic not to have been previously associated with Talossa. Vercáriâ is a highly experienced micronationalist, being co-founder and head of government of the State of Textor, as well as a three-term member of the Althing (legislature) in the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia. He has expressed interest in helping develop the distinctive "Euro-Talossan" culture of the province of Cézembe, as well as founding the Republic's newest political party, the MRP.

Next in line is **Martin Harvey**, a linguistics enthusiast who originally applied for citizenship in the Kingdom earlier this year. "Then... the revolution came," he adds. "I decided to let the dust settle for a while and also work out how I felt about the situation... I have since come to realise that I feel more at home in the republic."

Garth Spencer and **Ugo Truffelli** - all former citizens or prospectives in the pre-Revolutionary days - are also in the pipeline, making similar noises to Harvey about their attraction to the Republic. Spencer says that the Republic was "an alternative" to the "feuding and backbiting and trading insults and verbal abuse" endemic in the Kingdom; and Truffelli cites the "real abuse of power" by the King which precipitated the revolution as the decisive factor in his decision to join the Republic.

(continued on next page)

LINKS

Free Wittenberg: <http://www.talossa.net/wittenberg>

Monarchist Wittenberg: <http://talossa.proboards32.com/>

ÜN PÄTS SÂNC GLHETG ISCH 'N PÄTS SÂNC CORAZIUN

The interest of new perspectives Garth Spencer and Martin Harvey in joining Talossa's *Ladîntsch* (Talossan-speaking) community has language guru Miestrâ Schivâ "jumping up and down in a fit of insane glee". Schivâ has formally proposed a Republican *Comità për l'Úzil del Glhetg*, while a forum specifically for learning the national language has been added to the Talossan Public Fora. Schivâ hopes that the progress of *el glhetg* in the Republic will be helped by those similarly inclined in the Kingdom – "at least," she helped those who don't refuse to talk to us on principle".

One very encouraging aspect of the growth of the acceptance of the Talossan language in the Republic has been the increased adoption of Talossan-language names. D. Nānoc'hfighleu Vercáriâ has started using his from day one, while former Provisional Secretary Gödafrieu Válcadác'h has followed suit. It may be debated whether this is through patriotism, linguistic enthusiasm or citizens wishing to keep their "real names" out of Google searches. "But it's encouraging in any case," says Schivâ, who has used her Talossan-language name all through her participation.

Also worth noting is that this issue of *QI* has the largest Talossan-language content yet, including its first untranslated Talossan text (see Letters, page 8.)■

PROGRESS ON THE CONSTITUTION

After another month of sometimes acrimonious debate, the Constitutional Committee has succeeded in getting drafts of the most important and contentious items of our future governance down on paper.

Most debate was held around the composition and nature of the legislature (*Parlamînt*) of the Republic. The current structure calls for a three-member Senäts elected from provincial constituencies, and a seven-member House of Deputies elected by the whole population at large by proportional representation. The traditional name "Cosâ" for the lower house was rejected, in what one

disapproving citizen described as a "French-revolution-style" gesture.

Two new electoral systems - an Australian-style preferential voting system for the President and Senators, and a European-style "highest averages" system for the Deputies - have been approved in principle without too much controversy, although the details are yet to be set by legislation. Elections will be held in "staggered" form - the Deputies elected in March and September, the President in June and the Senäts in December each year.

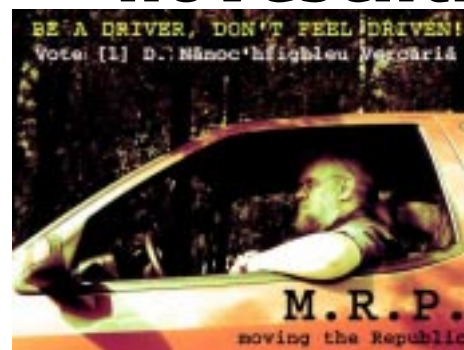
As for the Government, the biggest innovation from traditional Talossan practice is that the Prime Minister (*Seneschâl*) will be directly elected by the House of Deputies, rather than appointed by the head of state. The Secretary of State will continue to be a Presidential nomination, expressly non-political and with a fixed term in office.

Provisions in the new constitution to ensure "collective responsibility" - that is, that all Ministers act in accordance with official Government policy - have been adopted in a watered-down form after a sometimes harsh debate between committeemembers Miestrâ Schivâ and Andy Lowry. The forms of the Judiciary and the Provincial governments are next to be determined. ■

PECULIARISM RISES FROM THE POLITICAL GRAVE

Meanwhile, the preferential voting system will be tested in practice for the first time, as the Republic chooses between four candidates for a new Dean of the Provisional Governing Council. Sitting Dean **Michael Pope** (Guelph Party) is challenged by **Chirisch Cavéir** (Social Democrats); former Provisional Secretary **Gödafrieu Válcadác'h**; and new citizen **D. Nānoc'hfighleu Vercáriâ** standing for his own *Movamáintsch Repúblicán për Pecúlarisme* (Movement for Republican Peculiarism - MRP).

Vercáriâ's candidacy is particularly interesting, as it signals the return of Peculiarism to the mainstream of Talossan politics. Peculiarism as a political philosophy was first espoused by



D. Nānoc'hfighleu Vercáriâ takes his new party for a test-drive.

long-term oppositionist Dan Lorentz in the Kingdom in the late 1980's, and is summarised by the admittedly biased official Kingdom histories as an attempt "to define Talossa not as a country-like community, but as a wacky, borderless Zen-like 'afterglow' or plasmatic blobule unlike anything else on earth, with no claims to territory or physical space."

The survival of Peculiarism is something of a historical accident. Peculiarism went into abeyance in Talossan history after 1990, when Lorentz's Peculiarist government went down in a blaze of apathy. It was resurrected by Charles Sauls, Secretary of State in the late 1990's; when Sauls joined the Exodus to Penguinia in 1998, he co-founded the Gothic Peculiarist Party (GWP, after its initials in the constructed Penguinian language). Vercáriâ was a stalwart of this party throughout the history of Penguinia; he has now founded Talossa's first organised Peculiarist movement for more than a decade. Dan Lorentz's reaction to this is unrecorded.

The current campaign has mainly consisted of light-hearted trading of insults, with Cavéir accusing his enemies of "car theft, soul stealing and having German surnames". This laid-back attitude to campaigning may be due to the fact that the elected Dean will probably serve only an abbreviated term, replaced by the President of the Republic when the Constitution is ratified. However, the election is important as the first formal test of preferential voting in a Republic election, although a rough-and-ready preferential vote has already been used to fill a vacancy in the Constitutional Committee. Provisional Secretary Marti-Páir Furxhéir's online preferential voting forms will be under the utmost scrutiny from the electorate. ■

THE MADISON SCHOOL OF FALSIFICATION

From *Ár Päts: A Cheap Talossan History* by R. Ben Madison, 2003/xxiv

With the Government constitutionally unable to function thanks to defections in the ruling PFPT, the normally inactive King Robert I launched a “coup” on 29 March 1998 and plopped Christopher C. Gruber, the PC’s candidate, behind the PM’s desk even before the votes were counted. The new PFPT chief, Mark Pendl, showered Gruber with a hail of invective (calling the tolerant, leftist Gruber a Gay-basher, much to Jahn’s amusement) but the Tories crushed everything in their path, winning a whopping 25 votes to the PFPT’s 11, the PC’s best total ever.

The country’s rapturous welcome for Gruber—a radio DJ from Florida who’d been a citizen all of six weeks—was not shared among the traitors, who denounced him as a “vicious, sycophantic, homophobic thug.”

In July PM Gruber got the Ziu to establish “diplomatic relations” with several of these groups, leading to a loud debate about Talossa’s national identity with the King’s nationalistic xenophobia momentarily eclipsed. This openness to copycat groups was tempered by the Ziu’s prohibition of “dual citizenships” in Talossa and bugs.

Despite winning such a small majority, PM Chris Gruber’s PC government strode back into office with confidence. No screwy foreign plots had disrupted the vote this time, and the Government rallied to undo what it saw as the mistakes of 1998. ... Gruber laid down a radical “decoupling act” to make citizenship law amendable by a majority vote of the Ziu rather than cumbersome OrgLaw amendments. All were stunned when the bill failed - blocked by the ZPT in the Senäts, where the PC was rapidly losing its majority through the disappearance of Sean Hert, the loss of the Florencia seat to Maxime Charbonneau, and the defection to the ZPT of ex-PM Gary Schwichtenberg, still fighting vainly to keep Matt Dabrowski out of Talossa.

Matt Dabrowski became, as everyone expected, a highly visible figure on the RT political stage [including] as the RT’s “Ambassador” to a pact of online “micronations”... But Matt’s jockeying for power within the group led to flame-wars... The controversy sapped what little enthusiasm Gruber had for “bug nations” and their U.N.-esque antics, and in March he issued a well-intentioned but ill-advised PD cutting off all Talossan “diplomatic contact” with the swarms of online Talossa-clones

The flap over the “bug nations” PD proved to be Gruber’s swan song and accelerated his intention to resign after more than a year in office, due mostly to pressures from a new job. Gruber’s resignation was delayed by a not totally frivolous lawsuit relating to some trivial appointments which he had put off for months; but when he finally did resign in May, the torch was passed effortlessly to Deputy PM Michael Pope.■



Compare these two extracts from the “official history” of the Kingdom of Talossa, dating from before and after CHRIS GRUBER (above) got in trouble with the King...

From *“Els Senescháis del Regipäts Talossán / Prime Ministers of Talossa, 1985-present”* by R. Ben Madison, October 2004/xxv/l

During the crisis in the PFPT Government in the spring of 1998, Chris Gruber stepped forth as the candidate of the battered PC Party. In a feat of constitutional legerdemain, he was effectively sworn into office before the end of the ongoing election, thus restoring a functional government in Abbavilla for the first time in almost a month.

... His elevation as PM was ratified by voters, who gave the PC a whopping 16 out of the 20 seats in the Cosâ. Voter turnout reached a record high, and the Tories won fully 40% more voters than they had ever won before

in a national election. Gruber was re-elected, with a smaller majority, in December of 1998.

Gruber’s tenure in office, a little over a year, was marred by scandal. His outspoken support for controversial immigrant Matt Dabrowski resulted in the defection of former PM Gary Schwichtenberg to the Opposition. Gruber’s effectiveness was further by the PC’s loss of its majority in the Senäts (the legislature’s upper house).

Denounced by foreign critics as a “vicious, sycophantic, homophobic thug,” his authoritarian leadership style, coupled with long bouts of inactivity, rubbed members of his party the wrong way. And the landmark legislation adopted on his watch (including the repeal of a controversial provision allowing Members of the Cosâ to keep secret their votes on citizenship bills) was often more in spite of him than because of him.

Gruber’s government began to fall apart when he got Talossa involved with a bickering consortium of self-proclaimed “micronations.” Torn between the majority PC position—which was to have nothing whatsoever to do with any of these “plagiaristic micro-nerds”—and the position of some in the Opposition, which was to have Talossa engage in phony UN-style games with these groups, Gruber ended up issuing a Prime Dictate cutting off all bilateral ties with ‘micronations’ but preserving the country’s membership in the increasingly fractious fake-UN group. Neither side liked this solution; the King vetoed the PD on the grounds that it clashed with legislation already on that month’s Clark. The PC swung behind a ZPT party compromise bill, and cut off all official ties with “micronations.”

The flap over the PD proved to be Gruber’s swan song and accelerated his intention to resign after more than a year in office. Gruber’s resignation was delayed by a not totally frivolous lawsuit relating to some trivial appointments which he had put off for months. Over the next few years, Gruber became increasingly violent and marginal, and later renounced his citizenship after his lengthy criminal record came to light and he launched a botched attempt to overthrow the Talossan government.■

LEGITIMACY IN MICRONATIONS

There are two conflicting definitions of "Legitimacy" when referring to governments. The classical definition is "lawfulness by virtue of being authorized or in accordance with law". However, in political science, it is more accurately defined as being "whether or not people accept the validity of a law or ruling or the validity of a governing regime".

In plural micro-nations in particular, the problem of legitimacy tends to poses itself in a different light, since the "people" referred to are not constituted in the same manner as in a traditional country.

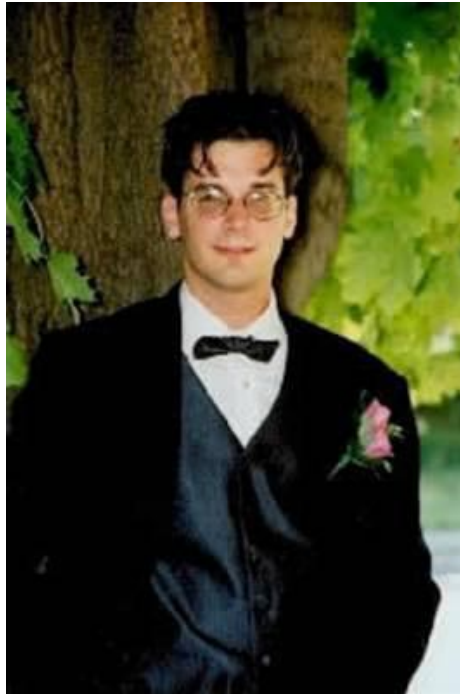
In micro-nations, let's face it, citizenship is a hobby that can take up more or less of a person's time. Unlike real world citizenship, you do not live within your micro-nation, even if you claim your house's territory.

This means that loyalty and sense of belonging to a micro-nation is much less encompassing than to one's home country, and because of that, legitimacy is even more important, since loss of legitimacy may lead easily to exodus from many citizens.

In the Kingdom of Talossa, during the May 2004 election, a legitimacy crisis occurred, causing ultimately the creation of the Republic of Talossa.

Had the split not occurred, the Black Hand Party of Talossa would have won a lawful, but illegitimate majority. And the worst thing about the situation, was the realization by the founders of the republic that the legitimacy of the government of the Kingdom of Talossa would never be restored.

In a normal country, citizens pay their taxes to their home country. They work in it. Live in it. Raise kids in it. Regardless of whether they are socially active or not, politically



MARTI-PAIR FURXHÉIR is Secretary to the Provisional Governing Council of the Republic of Talossa.

minded or not, they are affected by the taxes and regulation of their government. Should a government act in a manner totally contrary to the beliefs of the population, the citizens will rise up from their slumber to show to their leaders their discontentment. This occurred in France in the 18th century. This also occurred during the American revolution.

In the Kingdom of Talossa, however, with each resignation from disgusted citizens, the percentage of inactive citizen blindly following the King would increase, reducing the legitimacy of the government.

When Wes Erni (who is a mostly inactive citizen) and Ben Madison left the PC to form the Black Hand, it left in the hands of a single active citizen almost the majority of the votes. In that case, legitimacy didn't follow legality.

Several citizens later joined the Black Hand party, giving it a majority. But even then, a vote by active citizens would have yielded a totally different

outcome than a vote of all the citizens, causing a lack of perceived legitimacy in the Kingdom.

Had the pocket votes been active in Talossa in other matters, they would have been active in some way. But in this case, the only interaction these citizens were having was when they were called upon to vote for Ben Madison.

How would Americans feel if the majority of voters in a presidential election would live offshore, pay no taxes, have no interest what so-ever in the politics of the USA and still solely decide the outcome of the election ?

In the course of June 2004, 15 of the 20 most active citizens left for the Republic, leaving a country with a vast majority of inactive citizens and an even bigger legitimacy problem.

There is no easy solution to this situation. As long as inactive citizens form a small minority, it is not a problem. However, in any micro-nation with permanent citizenship, many citizens will slowly grow inert, but still decide to vote for their last political ally, never asking themselves if this hurts their former hobby. Worse, a citizen might convince some of his friends to join a micro-nation solely to stuff the ballots, possible to increase his position in the legislature or reduce the effect of pocket votes from other parties.

The rare solutions to solve an existing problem are undemocratic. Activity requirements are discriminatory, such as requiring to post on a public forum. Votes of confidence on citizenship are even worse, since it enables the party with the most number of pocket votes to get rid of another party's pocket vote.

Another would be to "suspend" temporarily the citizenship of out of touch citizens until they come back from inactivity, to prevent some

opiniun da m-p

parties from praying on them to get a last minute vote. A simple method to achieve this would be to conduct a census every year, in which citizens have a certain time period to register for voting in the next year. Citizens who fail to register could always request to be added at a later date, but this time, with verification.

But none of these solutions are totally democratic. This leaves only the greatest tools of democracy : truth, respect and knowledge. All citizens should be educated on the danger of pocket votes, and taught early on not to vote in an election unless they have well studied the issues, trying to prevent the situation from happening in the first place.■

PROVINCIAL IDENTITY IN THE REPUBLIC

Prior to the founding of the republic, many citizens were living in Milwaukee itself but the majority of the citizen were actually Cybercits. With the founding of the republic, there are only two Old Growthers with us, and yet, we still mainly claim a part of Milwaukee.

I think it is time for us to think about the connection between the land and the country.

For that, let's go back in time, to the beginning of the 1980s. At the time, more and more portions of Milwaukee were being claimed as Talossa, moving from 100% of the land controlled by its citizens (the Kingdom was then a group of bedrooms) to a territory over which the Kingdom didn't have any real control, and in which the citizens were a minority.

In that transition, a major shift in the founding of Talossa changed. It's motto was : "A man's room is his Kingdom", and yet, we claimed territory - the room of other men (and women) - as ours.

Furthermore, when we moved away from 1 bedroom provinces, to plural citizen ones, the room of a man stopped being his Kingdom, having to share its rule with other citizens.

But yet, the majority of the citizens lived inside the claimed territory, or studied in it. Then, Cybercits arrived, changing the face of the country. What made these citizens Talossan if they didn't live in Talossa ?

At the end of the 1980s, the Peculiar Way party had proposed to transform Talossa

m-p's opinion

current president, for example, would be unwise).

6 – Parts of Milwaukee should remain in our claims.

Before entering into further discussions, I would like to point out the Island of Cézembre.

In my point of view, Cézembre was the best territorial claim of Talossa for several reasons. First of all, it is uninhabited. Second, it was near the residence of Talossan citizen Frédéric Maugey. It also had historical importance making it unsuitable for residence, and yet, reachable by visitors. But finally, it associated the European citizens to it, being closer for them than the homeland, and by being inhabitable due to it's military waste, provided an impression that European Cybercits could actually be Cézembre residents should the island be decontaminated.

In that light, we should continue claiming the island, but perhaps, we should review other such options; ideally places where it would be possible for Talossans of the same province to meet, and party every few years.

Perhaps, each province should have such a claim, with one of the provinces claiming part of Milwaukee, or every province claiming a part of Milwaukee in addition to it's local claim.

As such, each citizen would be naturally assigned to the province with the land territory closest to his home.

Providing such a location would encourage provinces to meet more often, and create a regional identity based on their location.

Provincial governments could prepare plans for the organization of their home territory, and rules to dictate it's organization should we gain sovereignty over it.

Unlike the old Kingdom's province which were all, except one, in Milwaukee; each province would have its own history, culture and local signification.■

into a spiritual plasma rather than be a country. Is this what the Republic is bound to become ?

I don't think so. Thanks to the historical attachment to Milwaukee, and the fact that many of us have performed the *haxh* there, we still have in our heart the "founding" land of Talossa.

Most of us also think that the republic should have territorial claims. However, I think we should carefully review our territorial claims in the light of the new reality.

Before doing so however, there are a few things this author feels we should strongly avoid :

1 - Becoming a landless country. Claiming territory is an important cultural landmark of Talossa, whether it is a Republic or a Kingdom.

2 - We should stay away from "obvious" yet "frivolous" claims such as Antarctica, the Korean DMZ, the unclaimed territory next to Saudi Arabia or an extra-planetary body such as the Moon, Mars or even segments of orbits.

3 - The majority of Talossans should be able to visit at least part of it, given reasonable financial resources.

4 - Ideally, a few Talossans should reside within or very near the total claimed territory.

5 - The claims should have a permanent nature (the apartment of the

letters

Letter to the Editor of *Qator Itrins*,
by Chirischtôval Cavéir

Dear Editor-In-Chief:

Read the latest *QI*. FAN-tastic. The insight, the history, the reflection, the WRITING... my heavens, the Republic's coming along quite nicely and *QI* is a sure sign that the cultural front is not only not being neglected, but being tended to quite nicely.

We've got a decent radio network, active discussion boards, but a vibrant, exciting magazine? This is just too much to hope for! (The other good news is *QI* isn't bogged down with tonnes of adverts, like in those non-Talossan magazines I read from time to time.)

Here's hoping that *QI* lives a long and fruitful life. May the hair on its toes never fall out!

*Yours sincerely,
Chirischtôval C. Cavéir
Pórt Maxhestic.*

Ûn bréif âpnescù à R. Ben Donatüs,
sezirînd Regeu da Talossa, par Miestrà
Schivâ

Estimat Bobby:

Tent venescu à noastrâ atentziun în las
Provinçuns Livereschti që tú tent anonçat
dacuôrt àl *Wittenberg* monarc'histà që, schi
noi Repúblicâes volent që tu ceðarhâs noi
nithar partù în el înterriét, noi fossent, starp
tgumiliaziuns ôthrâs, "*ceðar ès desistar
uðar iñen mocts ûnautgorisats del ghletg
Talossân eda tërëms Talossâes*".

Come tu pût vidarë del fâts q'eu scriu acest
bréif în el ghletg Talossân, eu considereu
qê tú ûltimatûm isch ridîschlops à mighôr.
Tenéu noveschti përr tú, Ben - tú non pût
anticopiar 'n ghletg (come ziscovreva el
xhînt qî tent întentat Loglan). 'N ghletg
vrâts isch 'n entità sopáir qî grûltiça ès
evolva. El Treisoûr ès la Gramaticâ (à mhius
las verziuns 1997) sînt sûrlighîhâs, în el báin
públic dove iñenviens ès toct i tzarâ povent
lor uðar ès ziverçar. Mismâ non-Talossâes
sînt estrambôrdici lo lernar.

Schi tu estadrâs da thoct seriös över
el santéu del ghletg që tu tent creát,

bréifs

tú agreedrâs që el pû dels
Ladîntschen, el mighôr. Com'evri, tú
nun semblâs rixatorxheu që solamînt
els qî sînt preparats xhurar a dtú
qualsevol sortâ da éida da leialtà fost
estarë permitats partetxar în tú
acavamáintsch sânc duvitaziun
imprebatû. Acest isch stupi, non
solamînt politicálmînt más
ghletgmînt.

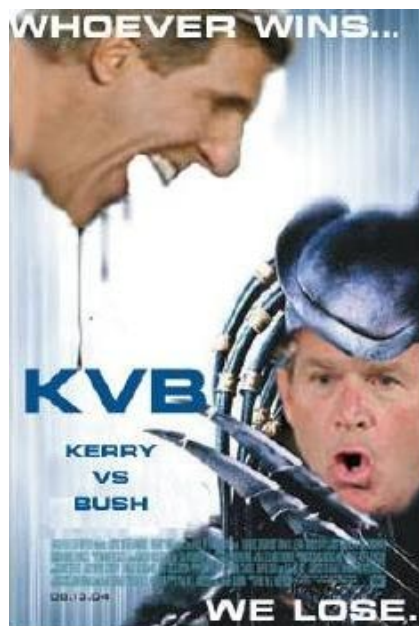
Eu sînt tréi radâ që plûrs Talossâes à embù
sidâs dal chevrânâ politicál sînt
rixatorxheux guardar à vhidâ el ghletg -
zespitzî tú zestirminaziun cumpâts
impedar që "tradidoûrs" lo uñent. Tú tent
'n çoiçéu, Ben. È-ça që tú succéß vrâts
ès sânc duvitaziun - acest ghletg -
continuarha evolvar ès developar 'n
comunità vrâts Ladîntsch? Eda, è-ça që tú
zestirminaziun exar els "tradidoûrs" isch
pû lâxhir që tú eschtolençâ în tú travâl d'îrt
ghletgesc? È-ça që tú isch preparat
despeirar la escasençâ mighôr da vidâ
vrâts përr el ghletg, solamînt përr 'n victôriâ
politicál pic'hotsch?

*Restéu përr Talossa,
Miestrà Schivâ,
Fostégghâ, CÚG-Repúblicâ.*

*And now, a message from our sponsors
as our American readers go to vote:*

BUSH IS STUPID! KERRY IS EVIL!

*This message brought to you by the International Socialist
Tendency of the Talossan Social Democratic Party.*



GUIDALIGNHÂS PËR CONTRIBUÇADÉIRS GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month.

Sâ vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân!

QATOR ✨ ITRIN

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

VOLUME 1, NO. 4

DECEMBER 2004

SIX MONTHS OF THE REPUBLIC

Our Successful Exercise in Freedom

by Miestrâ Schivâ

THE IRISH

CITIZEN

HE'S A DEAN MACHINE

An Interview with newly-elected Dean Chris Gruber

A QI Exclusive!

The Rights of Citizenship;

From Men and Women Equally

The Duties of Citizenship.

WHO ARE THE REAL TALOSSANS?

Examining our micronational identity

by Marti-Pair Furxhéir

"A NATION SUNDERED"

Exclusive excerpts from a new book on the Revolution

by Gödafrieu Válcadác'h

ALSO: news, editorial, wicked questions and MORE inside!

editorial

SIX MONTHS OF THE REPUBLIC

I'm writing this on December 1st (New Zealand time) - six months to the day since the Founding Parents occupied *Wittenberg* and declared the corrupt rule of the House of Rouergue to be over forever. On that day, our founding Dean, Michael Pope, had this to say:

"We, the concerned people of Talossa, are hereby founding the Republic of Talossa, where we can pursue the vision of a democratic nationette, the vision shared by all Talossans but frustrated by the King... This Republic will be a place where our democratic principles will come to fruition, to build a nationette we can all be proud of."

Is Pope's vision coming to fruition? As far as his hopes for democracy go, then most certainly. Admittedly, the nation doesn't have its permanent constitution and political structure up and running yet. However, this is because we keep tinkering with it, to make sure that it's just right, that no citizen can possibly feel that their concerns were ignored in the constitution writing procedure.

In the meantime, however, we are laying the foundations for a political culture that will undoubtedly serve us well. Our debates over the constitution, while fraught and frustrating at times, have been courteous and have ended in broad consensus. Our rough and ready "direct democracy" system in the Provisional Governing Council is admirably filling the gap until we have an elected leadership.

Our first real election - that for a new Dean - proved that we not only have a voting system that works, but an atmosphere of political competition in which we all remain friends. Let's hope that this carries on when substantive differences over the future of the Republic arise - as they will certainly do.

What of the Republic's non-political life? Every micronation on the planet likes to think of itself as a model political entity - "utopian constitutions" are plentiful and cheap. And let's face it, there are plenty of places which are more friendly and more democratic than the Kingdom of Talossa. But the true achievements of the twenty-five years of Talossa have been el gheltg and a tradition of history writing.

I am proud that *Qator Itrins* has stood at the forefront of the establishment of linguistic and historical progress in the Republic. By reprinting extracts from the fine histories written by citizens Cavéir and Válcadác'h, and by using as much gheltg as is feasible, I like to think that we are the flagship of cultural achievement in this Republic. I hope that we, and our sister paper *Seifetzueascâ*, will continue to serve you and the broader micronational world well for many months to come.■



MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ
Editor / Redactéir

A recording of part of this editorial (in Talossan) will soon appear on Radio Free Talossa.

Ûn aubümicaziun d'iens pärts d'acest editoriál bentôpt apiarha süur Raídió da Talossa Liverescü.

dal redactéir

SEX MESEN DAL REPÚBLICÂ

Eu scrîu acest süur la Calondâ Zecemvár (tîmp da Nouâ Záiphäts)- sex mesen preciadamînt descînd els Parêmts Fundéirs tiennent ocupat *Wittenberg* ès zeclarat el róin corupt del Ca da Rouergue finischescu àl fim. Süur aceastâ ziuâ, ár Provastoûr pirmalaiset, Michael Pope, zireva acest:

"Noi, el popul conçernat da Talossa, perventürâ fundent la Repúblîcâ Talossán, dove povent piersequar la oramâ d'iensâ naziunetâ democrätic, la oramâ partetxadâ pèr toct els Talossâes más ancumbradâ pèr el Regeu... Aceastâ Repúblîcâ serâ 'n pläts dove ár principäis democrätics venarhent àl raífâ, fraicar 'n naziunetâ da qèt noi toct povent estarê prideschti."

La oramâ da Pope, vient ça àl raífâ? Quânt à sieu esperançuns pèr democraçù, pü echidâ. Cunceßadamînt, la naziun non ischù tent complätsmînt funziunînd sieu constituziun parmanînt ès strütür politicál. Com'evri, c'è parç qè noi restent en cufabricînds, controlînds qè c'è corêct à

phînt, qè aucün citáxhien pût poûçiválmînt zirarê qè sieux conceriuns sînt igñhoradâs în la proceßâ da scrîuarê la constituziun.

Ëntarimâ, com'evri, noi colochent las alicerçâs d'iensâ culturâ politicál qî sânc duvitaziun noi servarha ben. Ár zebätsilor över la constituziun, ivèntho conlats ès ancumbrînds da tîmp à tîmp, füvent cortéisen ès finivent în 'n cunçertâ vastâ. Ár süstem selvátic da "democraçù dirêct" în el Cußéggh Governînd Propriëu supstita admiraválmînt txuscâ noi tiennent 'n duceátx electat.

Ár eleziun pirmalaiset vräts - aceastâ pèr 'n noveu Provastoûr - tent prüvat qè noi tiennent non solamînt 'n süstem da votar qî funziuna, más ocsâ 'n vèstuc'h da cumpetaziun politicál în qèt noi toct remáinent amici. Qè noi esperent, qè acest continuarha quând ariçarhent dals ziferençuns sostantiivâs över el fütür dal Repúblîcâ - ès echidâ ça ariçarhent.

Qèt över la vidâ non-politicál dal Repúblîcâ? Cadascù naziunetâ àl eraticâ ama se credarê 'n entità politicál ideál - "las constituziuns utöpiäes" sînt ben vendeschti ès cüpiösen. Ès, qè noi repaxhent, ja plürs plätsilor qî sînt pü amicáis ès pü democrätics qè el Regipäts Talossán. Más els acávamáintschen vrätsilor dels váintsch-simcâ ârs da Talossa sînt el gheltg ès 'n tradiziun da scrîuarê la tgistörîâ.

Eu sînt pridescù qè *Qator Itrins* s'isch presentadâ în el avîntguárd dal cünstavalitâ del progrecéu gheltgmînt ès tgistörîc în la Repúblîcâ. Pèr repúblîcar dals seidâs dals tgistörîâs finâs scrîudâs pèr citáxhiens Cavéir ès Válcadác'h, ès pèr uçar aßéi del gheltg qè si pût, eu améu credarê qè noi sînt el "vaibál del drapeu" del acávamáintsch culturál în aceastâ Repúblîcâ. Eu esperéu qè noi, ès ár xhurnál sorör *Seifetzueascâ*, continuarhent voi servar ben, ès la comunitâ pü vastâ dals naziunetâs, dürânt plürs mesen fütüurs.■

DEAN GRUBER COMES OUT SWINGING

The Republic's first real election campaign has been a success for democracy, with Social Democrat candidate Chris Gruber narrowly defeating incumbent Michael Pope for the position of the Dean of the Provisional Governing Council.

The election, open to all Republic citizens, was the first serious test of the Australian-style preferential voting system, which, according to the Draft Constitution, will be used for electing the President and Senators of the Republic.

Gruber and Pope tied with 33% of the primary vote. However, when second preferences were taken into account, support for other candidates split 3-1 in favour of Gruber, giving him a 58%-42%

"MADISON MUST STEP DOWN"

**Qator Itrins talks to new Dean
Chris Gruber**

Do you have any words for our readers on your election to the leadership of the Republic?

I'm sincerely hoping that this can be the proper transition into the first solid constitutional government in the Republic. My aims are merely to help direct the Republic through this transition, so that it's an easy switch. Everything I will do as Dean should reflect that.

In particular, do you plan to do anything different from your predecessor Michael Pope?

On the whole, not really. Although, I will be available on week-ends. (laughs)

I will be making a few appointments where necessary, but I don't see any major changes. I will say that this new administration will NOT be dealing with other micronations, since we have way too much on our own platters to deal with international affairs. I would request -in fact, order (laughs) - my Ministry of Foreign Affairs to simply a blanket statement to other micros that we are currently pursuing an isolationist agenda. Until we have a solid,

majority over Pope in the final count.

One noteworthy feature of the election was the stronger than expected showing for Peculiarist candidate D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ, who came third with 25% of the vote. If this is translated into Parliamentary seats next year, then Peculiarism will be well and truly "back" as a force in Talossan politics.

With his electronic voting system vindicated, Provisional Secretary Marti-Páir Furxhéir is hard at work drafting an Electoral Act which can be used when the new Constitution is ratified.

As for the Constitution, the Committee has almost completed deliberations on the First Complete Draft, which will be presented to the people of the Republic sometime in the next month. Committeemembers are reported to be "hard at work" making this happen. With most constitutional essentials agreed, the remaining steps towards an elective system of government seem to be a matter of technicalities and wording. ■



**CHRIS GRUBER, new Dean of the
Provisional Governing Council**

working constitutional government in place, we will not be trying to make friends or join any international organisations. If I remain Dean until the constitution is in place, I am firmly committing this government to that task. Internationalism at this juncture is simply going to serve as a distraction. Other developing nations may ultimately require other nations to provide aid during their infancies, but the Republic needs to pull itself up first.

We will, however, be taking a firm stance with regards to the Kingdom. They have dismissed our claims to our territory, but perhaps they need to be made aware of our commitment. Perhaps a claim of victory, complete with

photographs of a government official and a Republic flag? Perhaps a new proclamation? I can't say right now. But there are options and we will have this matter settled before too much longer. As long as the King continues to blatantly violate our sovereignty by appointed fraudulent "governors" of our provinces, we will be forced to deal directly with the issue.

It's our nationette. Whether he and his cabal of toadies like it or not.

Do you intend to run for President if the current draft constitution is ratified?

I certainly intend to give it a shot, although who knows how the public will react to this interview.. (laughs) I would like to attempt a run at the presidency, and I would also like to help the Social Democrats (the PSD) further our causes. The PSD is committed to fair democratic processes and a vibrant, exciting Talossan culture. We're firmly committed to making the Republic as wonderful as she deserves to be.

Where do you think we need to go from here as a cultural entity?

That's a tough one. Cultural unity implies some sort of unity with the Kingdom, or at least avoiding neglect of the culture, the kind of neglect that can often plague a culture if there is a significant split.

The absolute best hope for cultural unity in any happily-imagined form is for the King to step down and get out of the whole of Talossa. As long as he is in the Kingdom, he will do everything in his power to thwart any and all attempts at cultural unity. Short of that, I would suggest that we not treat cultural unity as a futile exercise and instead work toward it.

We'd need to make sure that the language doesn't split into a multitude of versions, like Cornish has in its recent revival. All that a linguistic split can do is guarantee the gap will remain between us and the Kingdom, culturally speaking.

Reaching out to culturally-minded Kingdomites is definitely our best hope for the time being. Making sure that even Kingdomites are welcome in our glheß glheßons forum would be one way. Deferring to the authority of friendly and knowledgeable linguistic Kingdomites like Tomás Gariçéir would also make sure we are complying with the accepted rules of the language.

We will do our damndest to assure cultural unity in any form we can, despite those who might despise such a proposition. ■

six months of the republic - opinion

WHICH IS THE REAL TALOSSA?

By MARTÌ-PÀIR FURXHÉIR

The month of November 2004 marked an important event, the renunciation by Ron Rosáis of his Talossan citizenship. This renunciation gave several Talossans questions about our very identity.

While Ron wasn't one of the most popular citizen of the republic, he had two distinctions that many of the citizens do not have : he was one of the oldest citizens of the former Kingdom of Talossa, and still lives today in Milwaukee, even thought he isn't in the territory of the Republic nor of the new Kingdom itself.

In an exclusive interview with **Seifetziueascâ**, Ron declared : *"I sincerely believe that the Republic has moved away from Humor, Peculiarism, Vagueness and Milwaukee-isms. Its ties to the actual Talossa, the Talossa I knew, are few and consequently, I have renounced my citizenship today."*

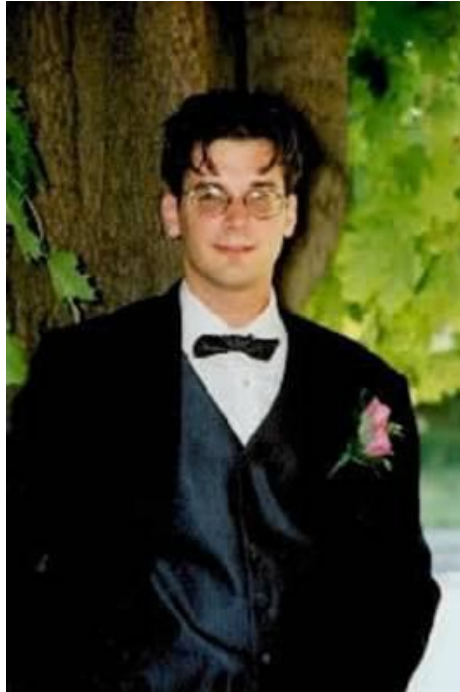
This situation isn't without precedent. There has been many tensions between old-growthers living in Milwaukee and Cybercits ever since the former Kingdom opened its doors to its first Internet foreigners, tensions forcing an identity crisis in the nationette.

Is Talossa an Internet Micro-nation claiming a physical territory, or a land-based Micro-nation admitting citizens living outside its territory ?

The question is far from rhetorical, since it affects the very nature of the Republic, and our right to the name Talossa itself.

Ben Madison accused the Republic of breaking its ties to Milwaukee, focusing only on the Internet citizens that have no way to understand the true Talossan spirit, since they don't live within Talossa.

The first criterion for citizenship in a country is usually to reside, or having resided in that country. Doing so enables it's citizens to form a community together. Under that definition, there would only be a single citizen in the Republic of Talossa.



MARTÌ-PÀIR FURXHÉIR is Secretary to the Provisional Governing Council of the Republic of Talossa.

In a micro-nation with online access, it's community can be formed online, but rarely resides strictly online.

Without traveling to Talossa or even outside my province, I have personally met five citizens of the former Kingdom of Talossa and spoken on the phone to almost all of the active citizens, and even many of the inactive ones.

And I am not alone. Many Talossans meet others in person, talk on the phone, and in several cases, even do business together.

But aside from Talossafest, the majority of these interactions occur outside the Talossan soil.

In that case, what is the relationship between the land of Talossa, its residents and Internet citizens?

Ron is right, Talossa isn't the Milwaukee micro-nation he knew in high-school, but does it mean that it is now strictly an Internet club ?

I doubt so. Most Talossans still feel a certain sentimental attachment to

Milwaukee, and want to know what happens in the homeland. Many citizens actually want to visit the city, even if only to see where everything started.

But with only one citizen actually living in Milwaukee, is the Republic of Talossa truly Talossan?

Even today, in the Kingdom's immigration webpage, the following warning is present : *"there are some counterfeit "talossa" groups that have used our name on the internet to promote their own causes"*.

Four insinuations or plain accusations are included in this simple statement :

1. That we are counterfeit
2. That we do not have a right on the name, Talossa
3. That we are solely on the Internet
4. That we promote our own cause

With fifteen ex-citizens of the Kingdom of Talossa, the Republic isn't a counterfeit, nor are we solely on the Internet, as I have explained above. We didn't start our group to pretend to be the Kingdom of Talossa, we seceded from it.

As for promoting our own cause, we indeed promote 5 main values that are not shared with new Kingdom: Democracy, Freedom, Equality, Respect and Activity.

Democracy. In the Republic, the Court Justices are nominated, like in the Kingdom and most of the democratic countries. However, every other major post is elected, including our head of state. Furthermore, even the Secretary of State office must be confirmed by elected representatives of the population. To add, no unchecked monarch is given the right to appoint the Prime-Minister of the country, like the King did in the Halloween crisis. Furthermore, our voting process is secret, while votes are public in the Kingdom, encouraging pressure on the voters to vote for the King.

Freedom includes freedom from harm, both physical and psychological. It is often said that the freedom of one ends where the freedom of others begin. In the

sex mesen dal repúblicâ - opiniun

Kingdom (both the former and the new one), King Robert I certainly uses his freedom of speech, but in an unchecked manner. He has, and will continue to use, libel, lies, deceit and rhetoric to further his cause, and harm his opponents. The Prime Ministers page [quoted in the last *QI* - ed.] is a testimony to his actions.

Equality is the safeguard of Freedom and Democracy. In a country where one citizen is above the law, the lack of checks and balance has numerous times hurt the people of the Kingdom of Talossa. In the Republic, no citizen has a permanent right to veto, and no citizen requires a complex four-part procedure to be removed from office. And even without our impeachment procedure, our head of state is elected annually, and not nominated for life.

Respect is not a tool. It is a consequence. You cannot force respect between citizens, you get it when your environment provides an opportunity for everyone to voice their concerns in a safe matter, either in their speech, or in their vote. As long as there is a hope for reconciliation and understanding, people try to be respectful. That hope will never be present in the Kingdom of Talossa, due to the inability of Ben Madison to recognize his errors and apologize for his mistakes.

And finally, **Activity**. A real country is its territory, its people, its economic activity.

A micro-nation is the activity generated by it's citizens. One of the key complaints against the King was his use of Pocket votes to increase his voter's base. These citizens would not only decrease the average activity, they also badly hurt democracy by removing the legitimacy of the government (see my article in the last *Qator Itrins*).



I think that in every way, our cause is nobler than the new Kingdom's cause. But do we have the right to name ourselves Talossa ?

As I said before, all the lawful prime-minister of the Former Kingdom of Talossa, with the exception of Quedéir Castighâ, for a far back as January 19th, 1998 have left the Kingdom in protest against Ben Madison. But if you want to turn back in time to the last still active citizen of the Kingdom to have been elected Prime-Minister, that would be Ián A. Metáiriâ, in 1993-1994. Of all the Prime Ministers of the last decade, only Mr. Castighâ is still an active citizen, and his only official activity is to hold a single

seat in their Cosâ.

Most of the workers in the success of the former Kingdom in the same decade have left the country, some never to be heard again, but for the majority of them, to eventually join the Republic of Talossa.

We have has much right to the country as the people in the new Kingdom, since for years, the country has mostly been managed, transformed, kept alive and vibrant in big parts thanks to our efforts.

Therefore, the new Kingdom of Talossa isn't entirely the country the Former Kingdom of Talossa was. It is only a portion of it's past, just as the Republic of Talossa isn't the former Kingdom either.

Which Korea is more entitled to the Korea name? North or South Korea?

Which Germany was more entitled to the Germany name? West or East Germany?

There are now two Talossas. The Talossan nation is split in half, between a free Republic and an oppressive Monarchy. Both have the right to the name, due to their common history.

And neither can prevent the other from using the name. We will have need to learn to coexist, either side by side, or at opposite ends, ignoring each other. ■

Republic vs. Kingdom: A Checklist

by MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR

The Republic of Talossa, in less than 6 months, has :

- **Published** four issues of the *Qator Itrins* magazine
- **Published** ten issues of the *Seifetziueascâ* newsletter
- **Published** articles from other Micro-nations in it's magazines
- Had some of it's articles **published** in other Micro-nations' magazines
- **Produced** several quality radio shows for Radio Free Talossa
- **Produced** or rebuilt over ten different, quality websites, with each several pages

- Started working on the unprecedented **Talossapedia**
- Started to rebuild its **Database** system
- Had vigorous and productive **constitutional debates**
- **Published** three Provisional Registers, containing several laws
- Has conducted a **successful election** for a new Head of State
- Revived **Talossanomics**
- Has **grown** from an initial population of 11, to a population of 26
- **Attracted** over a dozen prospectives and friends.
- **Received** over 5600 messages on its 6 forums, from close to 30 different people.

The Kingdom, in comparison has, in the same period :

- **Published** only 3 new webpages and slightly updated another
- **Published** no magazines or newsletters
- Has received only, as far as I know, **two new citizens**
- Has received less than **five new prospectives**
- Published four Clarks [legislative journals]
- Has not even been able to publish an up to date list of citizens
- Has received a little over 1000 messages, posted by only a dozen of different people. ■

six months of the republic - history

THE HALLOWEEN CRISIS

(*Qator Itrins* is pleased to print an extract from another upcoming History of the Revolution - **A Nation Sundered** by Gödafriêu Válcadác'h.)

“The 2003 Talossan Halloween Crisis” is a term coined by Ben Madison which has come to be an umbrella label for a number of events, or “crises”, occurring from 19 October to 28 November, 2003 with their common thread being a connection to my impending resignation [as Prime Minister of the Kingdom] and/or the recent flakiness of my personal effectiveness as the country’s chief executive.

It could be said with a great deal of authority that the Crisis began in earnest on 25 October, 2003 and had its nadir from that time until 12 November and at last ended with the King’s acceptance of the terms of the Noodle Summit on 28 November, 2003.

It gets a bit complicated.

I made my decision to resign in August, 2003. After much thought, I thought I should first tell the ones who had been my greatest supporters from day-one. I phoned Michael Pope and then spoke with [Progressive Conservative party leader] Ián Metáiriâ. After that, I informed the whole of the PC, and it was decided to get as much of a majority in the Cosâ as possible in the next election, and then let the Coalition know of my intentions.

Yes, this alienated the Coalition, but it was done out of concern of the growing influence of the Black Hand [*la Mha Neágrâ* / MN], a supposedly “niche” party [but in fact the political vehicle of the King - ed].

The PC, or at least a few members of the PC, was seeing a growing desire, conscious or subconscious, on the part of the Creator of Talossa to keep his creation from getting away from him

and to maintain control of Talossa.

The election for the 31st Ziu, the first under [new electoral system] EM200, ended on 14 October thusly:

Grey Congress Party: 48 seats

Black Hand (MN): 96 seats

Progressive Conservatives: 49 seats

ZPT: 8 seats

The MN was five seats short of an absolute majority in the Cosâ. The PC came in second place (barely) and was, for the first time in more than ten years, not the governing party, but the MN had decided to support my governance anyway.

When the story broke on 23 October (before I was able to put together a proper statement to the public about it) about my resignation decision (which would not become effective until some time at year’s end, thereby giving the parties ample time to find my successor), the fun began. My logical first choice, DPM Quedéir Castighlâ of the MN, declined because of his horrendous college schedule (one class in particular)

The MN proposed an unlikely candidate: Maxime Paquin-Charbonneau, whom, because of his past views on Israel as well as his on-again-off-again Talossan activity and his history of jumping from one political party to another over the entire time of his being a Talossan (he was even a PC member at one time until he left over anti-Semitic remarks of his), the Tories soundly rejected.

The MN had a real problem. The bulk of the truly-active people as well as the best-qualified people to serve as PM in Talossa were in the PC and the Grey Congress. When Maxime was rejected, the PC gave the MN another chance to offer someone, and the MN did so in the person of Amy Durnford, whose inactivity and negative attitude toward

the Kingdom was well-known, not to mention the inherent conflict of interest (her being the *Queen*). Although her being PM was perfectly legal under the Organic Law of that moment, we in the PC rejected her as well.

Finally, the MN offered up Wes Erni, who would have been perfectly acceptable except he had no computer and no internet access whereby he could directly communicate with most Talossans by email and Wittenberg. It was his “Amish-ness” and perceived (at least) lack of activity that compelled us in the PC to reject him too.

Finally, [Grey Congress leader] Chris Gruber was chosen as my would-be successor. As the PC had feared, it did not go over well with the MN. As for me, I was floored when the MN rejected Chris as I was still oblivious to the festering venom of Ben.

I named my Transition Cabinet on 9 November, in which Chris Gruber was appointed DPM [Deputy Prime Minister]. However, this came after I, in the most unfortunate move and mistake of my entire administration, had named a temporary “placeholder” Cabinet on 25 October, a Cabinet which named Castighlâ as DPM, caused terrible confusion, and which led to something that never should have been allowed to take place: Ben and Gruber working together on a sensitive political agreement.

The Grey Congress and the Black Hand came together to fashion (and “sign”) the infamous Joint Statement. An extract follows:

We, the members of the MN, wish to state publicly through this Statement that we seek only to participate in a Real Coalition for the government of the Kingdom of Talossa. In a Real Coalition there is no room for secret plots, back-stabbing, double-dealing, and double-crosses. It is our hope that we can jointly govern Talossa in a Real Coalition

sex mesen dal repúblicâ - tgistôriâ

with the PC, MN, and PCG all serving together as equal brother parties.

[...]

Accordingly, we propose that no day-to-day decision be taken in this Coalition Government without the fullest opportunity of each party to consider that decision, and that each party in the Coalition Government shall have equal say in the decision. Each party must be fully informed of the plans of the Government, and each party should assume a separate but equal status, so that each party—the MN, the PC, and the PCG—shall have one single, equal vote in all collective decision-making, and that the majority position shall always prevail.

The Joint Statement was published in [Madison's newspaper] Støtanneu, but there was some confusion as to whether the Grey Congress had signed off on it or not. The Grey Congress made a number of honest mistakes and botched the deal. That's all. It's a shame, really, because it was well-written and a perfectly-reasonable attempt to get me back to my good governance of old and to which Talossa had become accustomed.

That week, the MN left the coalition and went into Opposition, leaving me with a minority government of only the PC and the Grey Congress, for with its seven seats, the ZPT held the balance of power for both sides. By that time, the ZPT included only Gary Cone and the incommunicado party leader Ken Oplinger. The rest of the membership had joined the PC in protest of Ben's behavior of the past few months.

These seven seats, and the question as to who actually owned them and what was done with them, was eventually put under the umbrella term, "Seatgate".

Chris Gruber was named as DPM on 9 November. Using a constitutional loophole, King Robert I dismissed my minority government and Maxime Charbonneau became Prime Minister on 12 November, the ZPT having chosen to side with the MN (no blame to them from this author, by the way).



ANTICIPATING HISTORY: From left to right, Gödafriêu Válcadác'h, King Robert I and Chris Gruber eat at Noodles restaurant in Metropolitan Talossa, 11th June 2003/xxiv.

The abrupt way my first administration was ended was not illegal though some would not agree with me, but it was seen by everyone in the PC as an affront, for Gary Cone, who as the de-facto ZPT leader held the seven Cosâ seats which represented the balance of power between the MN and the PC and Grey Congress. Gary, for sincere reasons of long-standing personal loyalty to the King, and out of a sincere desire to bring stability once more to Talossan government, chose to support the MN, and was made Charbonneau's Deputy Prime Minister.

"Jeffgate", as I now call it, was a major factor in elevating the anger of the future Founding Parents towards Ben and was a major motivation for JP Griffin to be the first to speak of a "Republic of Talossa" in January, 2004, though at that time, the idea of secession or revolution was dismissed by everyone else.

The Noodle Summit held at the end of November between Ián Metáiriâ and the King at *Noodles* restaurant resolved the PMship question permanently and was an acceptable compromise to all parties. Maxime (according to the terms of the Summit

agreement) resigned, but did so earlier than expected, thus Deputy Prime Minister Gary Lee Cone became Prime Minister for exactly four days, I took over once more on 1 December, and Castiglilhâ took over as Prime Minister on 1 January, 2004.

My deposing from the PM's office in November was seen by many in the PC as something short of a coup, and a shoddy way to reward a PM who, if I may say so, had not been boring, my phone line problems having been explained in about the second week of November to the satisfaction of everyone. To the satisfaction of everyone except Ben, it seems...

Ben's rejection of Chris Gruber as my successor was seen by the PC, including the former ZPT members who had joined us - as an irrational, *petulant* (one of Ben's favorite words), and immature act by someone whose real reasons were based on personal hatred instead of real and objective appraisals of Gruber's ability to lead. After all, in September or October, 2000, the King had awarded Chris the *Per La Naziun*, the Kingdom's highest honor! Surely Chris must have done *something* right.■

An Essay on Micropatriotism

by MÁTHEU ZEILAVALÓNE VÁSROIXE

(The author is Vice-President of the Republic of Lavalon, a micronation which, like our own Republic, formed from a citizen's rebellion against their previous monarchy earlier this year. His essay is printed here for its contrast with Talossan traditions of nation-building. For more information visit <http://www.lavweb.tk/>)

Micro-patriotism is necessary for a successful micro-nation to be formed and for a micronation to continue to prosper. Micro-patriotism must be present among as many citizens of the micro-nation as possible. *Micro-patriotism is inevitably tied to the pervasiveness of the cultural, political, and otherwise esoteric elements of the micro-nation. The citizen will enjoy his citizenship only if there is something to enjoy.*

If culture is "the tastes in art and manners that are favored by a social group", then the micro-nation should have a full set of regalia and customs. Some micro-nations that base their philosophy on extreme libertarianism might be unsuccessful because of their unwillingness to implement a set of customary rules that all citizens should follow.

Within the micro-nation there must be mechanisms designed to ensure that the micro-patriotism of the citizen does not burn out. One such mechanism are the prospects of ranks and promotions. The micro-nation must offer high-up positions to those who are extremely micro-patriotic for a substantial period of time. *For micro-patriotism to remain high, there must be some sort of incentive, such as a "gold status" achievable by the citizens who follow certain rituals or make magnanimous contributions.*

In Lavalon, we have fostered micro-patriotism by creating a system of regalia by which citizens are promoted. We have already appointed two knights of the Order of Lavalon since the Republic was established. That in itself is a contradiction. How can a Republic have Knights? It is my view that the status of knighthood in Lavalon is similar to the status of the Knights Templar in present-day Austria. Knighthood in Lavalon requires a fair amount of achievement, and thus it is an incentive for the citizens to continue playing the "Lavalon game".

Micro-patriotism cannot be achieved without a political basis for doing so. In

Lavalon we have at least three political parties, all left-of-center to varying degrees. Participation in politics and political discussions keeps citizens active and is an incentive for them to keep returning to Lavalon.

In Lavalon we are giving jobs to those who are best at those jobs. Those good at art are sent to the Department of Logos and Regalia Standards to make art for the government. Those who enjoy the life of a diplomat or ambassador are given jobs in the foreign service. Those who like law are given judgeships or jobs as public defenders.

A micro-nation should do whatever it can to make sure that the citizens remain interested, without basic principles. Thus, a citizen who has a high level of participation in a micro-nation is micro-patriotic. If you look at the successful micro-nations, you will see that while they all have certain quirks, they all have something in common: the incredible number of options given to the citizens for their enjoyment. Talossa's and Lavalon's con-languages are examples. There must never be a shortage of projects in which the citizens can choose to participate.■

back by popular demand, it's... WICKED QUESTIONS FOR THE MONTH!

1. Next time the President of the United States decides to invade somewhere that's pissed him off, which way will the Republic's "invincible moral support" go?
2. What body parts would Michael Pope and J. P. Griffin rather bite off than live in

- a country like Lavalon with three left-of-centre political parties?
3. Seeing that the Vice-President of Lavalon lives in a southern state of the USA, does "left of centre" mean "only wants to bomb Third World countries a little"?

4. If Maxime Charbonneau sticks around in the Republic, will we have to start writing a French-Talossan dictionary as a matter of urgency?
5. Should this colum be more rightly called "Wicked Questions" or "Shameless Space Filler For Slow News Months?"

GUIDALIGNHÂS PËR COMTRIBUCADÉIRS

GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Qator Itrîns welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month.

Sâ vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossán!

GLHETG FIGHT!: OUR LANGUAGE SAVED FROM ROYAL CENSORSHIP

QATOR ITRÍNS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

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JANUARY 2005

"SOME SUBURB OF MILWAUKEE"

A Response to the Royal Slander

by Miestrâ Schivâ

THE BIRTH OF PENGUINEA

A reprint of *Southern Cross* editorial from 1997

WEEKLY WORKERS' CLUB

A little talk with the RMW

by Marti-Pair Furxbéir

ALSO: news, editorial, wicked questions and MORE inside!



editorial

"Some Suburb of Milwaukee"

You may have noticed, although hopefully you didn't, yet another rude and intemperate post on monarchist Wittenberg in which the King of Talossa has a go at me personally with a quote from more than seven years ago.

Now, unlike certain monarchs I haven't got a complete archive of everything that I said seven years ago. And I'm happy about that, because most of it is no doubt even more embarrassing. (Funnily enough, one quote which I truly regret - hurled at Chirisch Cavéir at the height of the Talo-Penguin Cold War - is currently being approvingly reused by the King himself! Who's infringing copyright now?)

Anyway, checking back in my email files,

I think I remember what Ben was talking about. The quotation is from a discussion we had over how the idea of an autonomous Pengöpäts was phony because none of us were ever going to go there. I questioned how much less phony it would be to assign we Antipodeans to a metropolitan province of Talossa - that is, "some suburb of Milwaukee which we'll probably never go to" either.

You see the point I was trying to make - that Pengöpäts citizenship wasn't inherently phonier than any other Cybercitizenship. Of course, again unlike certain monarchs, I have grown up and my views have changed over the years - for example, on the importance of the *Haxh*.

But it's utterly unfair for the self-proclaimed King to say that that quote shows that I have no appreciation for the "roots" of the Talossan experience. At worst, it shows that I was a Rude Bitch back then - which I'll happily and slightly shamefacedly admit to. But today I would only revise my views slightly. If an uninhabited island off the coast of Brittany is a Talossan province, sanctified by tradition and with citizens assigned to it, then doesn't that undermine the insistence that Talossa is first-and-foremost Milwaukee based?

Then again, perhaps I would have had more respect for the mainstream Talossan tradition back in '97 if the King who sees himself as the personal incarnation of that tradition wasn't attempting, at the time, to kick me out on my backside because he didn't approve of my choice of Talossan friends. For someone who keeps quite impressive grudges himself, he doesn't seem to realise that you don't make allies by offering ultimata and smearing your opponents. At best you make sycophants on one hand and bitter enemies on the other.■

For more nostalgia for the events of 1997, see pages 6 and 7 of this issue.



Miestrâ Schivâ "The Republic's Most Articulate Spokeswhatever"

Zespitzi toct, investigînd dîn va dobiéirs del telepôst, créu që sovenençéu da qêt Ben parleva. La quotaziun, c'è d'iensâ zicuñiun që noi tiennent, över come l'idéâ d'iens Pengöpäts autonôm esteva 'n fraudarâ, parç që aucün da noi txamáis ischâ là. Eu tent zemandat come mîus da fraudarâ c'estadra, athsigñhar noi Antipoûrans a'iensâ provinçû citânâl da Talossa - c.â.z., "qualsevôl banliâl da Milvoc'ht à qêt noi forcâ nuncâ ischent" biên.

Voi pëvetz vidarê el pînt që eu atenteva façarê - që citaxhientâ în Pengöpäts non esteva pû 'n fraudarâ që qualsevôl Cüvercitaxhientâ. Da c'horsicâ, 'n altreu fâts zisimpleu qualsevois monarc'hs, téu creschütat és va vischtâs sînt cambiadâs dîrânt els ârs - përexampâl, över l'entità del Haxh.

Más c'è soviarschamînt ûnxhúst që el sezirînd Regeu zîa që aceastâ quotatziun mostra që téu aucün envrüsadâ përlas "racinâs" dal experiençû Talossân. Piôrmînt, ça mostra që estevéu 'n Garçâ Malpardért à'cest tîmp - à qêt eu aviadeu, gradantéir és 'n pô ruschinadâ. Más oxhî eu rivizadreu va vischtâs solamînt 'n pô. Schi 'n însulâ cjavéir spud el rif dal Bréitz isch 'n provinçû Talossân, sanctificadâ përladiziun és cün citaxhiêns aßigñhats, non é-ça që ça subverta l'insistadâ që Talossa isch pirméis és fundamáintschâlmînt Milvoc'htân?

Altrâmînt, pût-estarê që tenadréu tent pû da respectû përlas tradiziuns del püpärts Talossân în 1997 schi el Regeu, qî se vîa come la cuncarnaziun personâl d'acestilor tradiziuns, non atenteva, à'cest tîmp, me expulsar sîr va ciôl parç që o non aproveva va coîçeu dels amici Talossâes. Përlqualseviens qî steçéu tent rancunâs aßéi impreßatiux, o non sembla realiçar që si non fâts aliançats përlprofrar ûlmatûms és detraiçar sieu contréirs. À mighlôr, si fâts afagéirs, eda altrâmînt enemíci aspreux.■

Përlpû da egñhoradâ përl els evînts da 1997, videtz paxhînâs 6 és 7 d'acest iBü.

dal redactéir

"Qualsevôl Benliâl da Milvoc'ht"

Voi pût-estarê tiennent acorçats, iventhö esperancîndmînt non, bis 'n altreu mensátx malpardért és imoderat sîr *Wittenberg* monarc'hista, dîn qêt la Regeu da Talossa me aßalta perziunálmînt cün 'n quotatziun da pû që ja seifet ârs.

Ça va, zisimpleu qualsevois monarc'hs, non téu 'n mustáir compläts da toct që téu zirat ja seifet ârs. És ça me alegra, parç që el püpärts da ça isch indubitanter ivên pû embaraßînd. (Aßéi comicmînt, viensâ quotaziun që eu regreteu acertâs - lançadâ à Chirisch Cavéir àl sümîtâ dal Zuerîa Fred Talo-Pengoûr - corenticmînt isch reuçadâ cün aprovâl par el Regeu steçéu! Qî fâts 'n înfraziun contrâ drept da cöpiâ nun?)

ÁR CONSTITUZIUN ISCH (prescâ) FINESCÙ...

After five months of debate by turns acrimonious, dilatory and surreal, the Constitutional Committee has finally made its report to the people of the Republic. The Committee presented its First Draft of the Republic's permanent Constitution to the Convention of the whole people for debate and amendment on 21 December.

A basic outline of the FDC follows:

- Legislative power will be held by a bicameral *Parlamînt* comprising a Chamber of Deputies elected by the whole people by proportional representation; and a *Senäts* of provincial representatives elected by an Australian-style preferential ballot.

- The Executive branch will be headed by a President chosen annually by direct popular preferential vote, and by a *Seneschâl* (Prime Minister) chosen by the majority in the Chamber of Deputies.

- The High Court (comprising one to three Justices) and Secretary of State will be chosen by the President and confirmed by *Parlamînt*. As non-political servants of the Republic, these will be barred from government or federal elective office.

- The Secretary of State will now only be in charge of running elections and archiving laws - the two Houses of

Parlamînt will run their own legislative processes.

- The President have the power to send bills to the High Court for a constitutional opinion, or to the people for a referendum, but will otherwise have no veto power.

- There will be a clear list of what areas Provinces will be totally self-governing, and in which areas they must defer to the government of the Republic.

However, the procedure for the Convention states that any citizen of the Republic can suggest any amendment to the draft. All amendments which have a mover and a seconder will be voted on before the Constitution reaches its final form. There is therefore no guarantee that the Republic's constitution will end up looking anything like the First Draft.

Objects of debate in the Convention, in an action-packed five days of debate



before the Foundation Day holiday, have included requirements that candidates for the highest office have been Talossans for a certain length of time; term limits on the Presidency; the procedure for adopting the Constitution and getting the new system of government running. Many Talossans who were not part of the Committee have jumped into the fray, gladdening the heart of Committee chairwoman Miestrâ Schivâ.

"It was necessary for the small committee structure to take the lead in producing a first draft," she argues, "otherwise we might never have gotten anywhere. But I was always worried that it might lead to a constitution while, legally waterproof and elegantly drafted, would not command the allegiance of the broad masses of the Republic."

Schivâ was often criticised during the Committee process for rushing debates to a conclusion over the process of Committeemembers who wanted more time for discussion. However, she argues that her approach has been justified by its outcome.

"The First Draft ended up with as broad consensus from the Committee as was possible. And the current debate in the convention seems to ensure that, whatever the outcome of specific issues, everyone who wants input into the Constitution will have it. I truly hope that this becomes a constitution which every Republic citizen can feel is their own."

The last word goes to a micronational observer, Emperor Shawn of Septempontia. "Like so much else of what has always been *best* about Talossa, it's *inspiring* to watch you folks at work.... watching the Constitution forum periodically (I check in on it about once every week or two) has been a real pleasure.

"Whatever the details of the final document turn out to be, you can be damn proud of the means you took to achieve that end. My congratulations."■

In Other News...

- An era came to an end in the history of Talossa when **Garth Spencer** finally "took the plunge" and asked for a vote on his citizenship from the Provisional Governing Council. Spencer has been a prospective citizen on and off for more than six years as of writing - something of a world record. Cries of "What took you so long?" echoed from all corners of the Republic.

- A **provisional list of public holidays** for the Republic has been bandied around. The traditional Talossan independence day, 26 December, has been replaced by the anniversary of the Revolution, 1 June; the name "Foundation Day" has been suggested for the older date. Other holidays suggested

have been Labour Day, International Working Women's Day, Armistice Day and Sanity Day (*don't ask - Ed.*)

- In cultural news, the front page of our official government website - talossa.net - is **going multilingual**. Secretary of State Fuxhêir has commissioned translations into English, French, German and Esperanto, with Swedish and Talossan versions due "any day now". The site clearly states that Talossa's main language of business is English, but that other languages are spoken by minorities. This development has been welcome as a step towards opening Talossa up to a wider audience than its traditional Anglophone catchment.■

...ÈS ÁR GLHETG ISCH SALVESCÙ!

The Republic of Talossa has successfully repulsed a challenge from its former monarch, R. Ben Madison, to its rights to use the Talossan language of which he is the primary author.

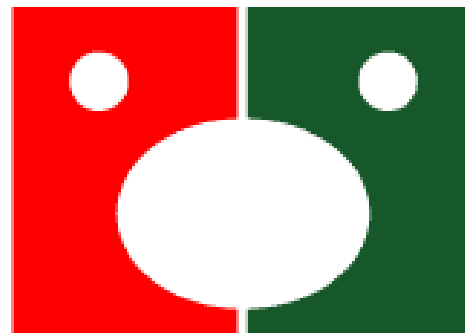
The Second Edition (and corrections) of both the grammar and dictionary of the language were available freely from the talossa.com website, up until the Revolution of 1 June 2004. Qator Itrìns editor Mistrâ Schivâ, the biggest enthusiast of the Republicans for the continued use of *el ghetg Talossán*, temporarily made these files available on her personal website.

"This was conceived as a public service to both sides of the political divide," explains Schivâ. "Tomás Gariçéir [the president of the Kingdom's committee for the use of the language] had been quite distraught at the apparent permanent loss of these items. It was for the sake of *Ladîntschen* [Talossan-speakers] on both sides of the border that I put them up on my website."

This was, however, technically illegal. All the Talossan language materials - with the exception of a page of corrigenda compiled by Gariçéir - were copyrighted to Ben Madison. And Madison had, for months previously, declared that as far as he was concerned, any use by the Republic of the Talossan language - or even of the word "Talossa" - was theft.

On the 10th of December, Schivâ was informed by her web providers that a complaint had been received from the copyright holder of the Talossan language materials about their continued publication. In the interests of goodwill, Schivâ took them off her website, pending their legal publication by authorised agents of the Kingdom's CÚG. Sadly, despite encouraging statements by the CÚG President, this has not been forthcoming as yet.

In what Schivâ describes as "a nasty, gloating little rant" on the Kingdom's webforum, Madison trumpeted Schivâ's recognition of his copyright as a victory over the Republican "plagiarists". Schivâ denies



LEFT: "El Drápeu Grischun", historic symbol of the Talossan-speaking people.

RIGHT: The logo of the new dictionary website, talossanlanguage.com

this accusation, pointing out that "Madison's copyright notices were reproduced intact, and no claim was made by me or any other Republican to be author of these materials."

Worse still, "King Robert" refused requests from Gariçéir to be allowed to republish the materials legally, claiming that any use of the language was restricted to Kingdom citizens only:

"The language and the Kingdom are inseparable. The language is ours. The language is part of an identity that includes political citizenship in the Kingdom of Talossa. It was created for one purpose and one purpose only: to give a linguistic identity to the Kingdom of Talossa."

Among other entertaining slanders, the King also announced that the Republicans had "no serious interest in the language" apart from using it as a tool to destroy him personally - and, perhaps most outrageously, that for his political opponents to learn Talossan was "like learning Hebrew and hating Jews."

Madison's apparently definitive pronouncements have, however, proven somewhat counterproductive. The example closest to home of this is the declaration of Tomás Gariçéir that "if we become so bent on preventing a few people that some of us don't personally like from ever speaking or writing a word of the language that we cut it off from the entire outside world, then it seriously will not be worth it for me anymore. It's that simple."

But non-Talossans have also been taking

sides on the what Schivâ declares "the Language Question" - and, without exception, it's been on the side of the Republic. Many micronationalists interested in *el ghetg* have preferred to congregate on the Republic's language forums to satisfy their curiosity, rather than dare the infamous Madisonian temper. Not surprisingly, many of these reacted to horror with the King's attempt to deprive them of the language unless they pledged loyalty to "his" Talossa.

The most impressive example of this was Kieran Bennett, ruler of the micronation of Breudwydd, who was so outraged by Madison's attempt at linguistic protectionism that he instantly - and illegally - posted copies of the language materials on an anonymous website, pretty much daring Madison to "come and get him". "We are pleased by Mr Bennett's support in this matter," says Schivâ, "although we of course can't condone intentional lawbreaking. We look forward with interest to see what he'll do when Ben comes after him."

Perhaps the very best outcome of Madison's attempt to shut down the Republic's linguistic efforts has been the inspiration for Republicans to create their very own language materials. The most impressive example of this so far as been the joint effort of Marti-Pair Furxhéir and J.P. Griffin to create our own, original Talossan dictionary, based on Talossan-language words already in the public domain (available at the link below).

"They should definitely get a CÚG commendation for that, except that Ben would probably veto it," jokes Schivâ. "The royal slander that we have no serious interest in the language is easily disproved by this, and by every issue of *Qator Itrìns*. Like it or not, *el ghetg Talossán viva dîn la Repùblicâ, és el Regeu non pût façarê nitgil övër ça.*" ■

LINK www.talossanlanguage.com

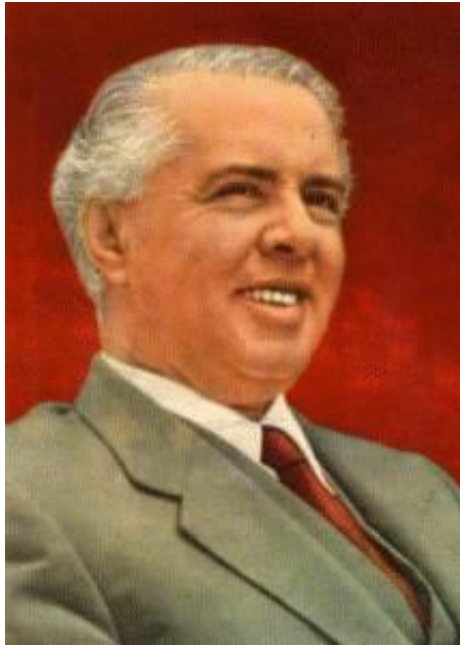
"An Entirely Fictitious World"

The following is an extract from an article by Antonia Grunenberg, **Totalitarian lies and post-totalitarian guilt: the question of ethics in democratic politics**, originally published in *Social Research*, Summer 2002 (full URL at bottom of page). Republicans might want to discuss this article with respect to the question of Talossan history - and who writes it...

In [Hannah] Arendt's view, the purpose of totalitarian ideology is to erect a world of propaganda in which terror can accomplish its brutal work because nobody is able to control it anymore. But totalitarian ideology is not just false. Its secret lies in the fact that it contains elements of truth, elements of reality.

What distinguishes the totalitarian leaders and dictators [from other demagogues in the past] is rather the simple-minded single-minded purposefulness with which they choose those elements from existing ideologies which are best fitted to become the fundamentals of another, entirely fictitious world. The fiction of [a Jewish conspiracy for the Nazis] was as adequate as the fiction of a Trotskyite conspiracy [for the Stalinists], for both contained an element of plausibility—the nonpublic influence of the Jews in the past; the struggle for power between Trotsky and Stalin—which not even the fictitious world of totalitarianism can safely do without. Their art consists in using, and at the same time transcending, the elements of reality, of verifiable experiences, in the chosen fiction, and in generalizing them into regions which then are definitely removed from all possible control by individual experience. With such generalizations, totalitarian propaganda establishes a world fit to compete with the real one, whose main handicap is that it is not logical, consistent, and organized.

Arendt's reflections on the fictitious world emerging from ideology in **The Origins of Totalitarianism (1951)** demonstrate how totalitarianism creates a parallel world without a connection to reality, a world constructed by totalitarian leaders to dominate the real world. It can



ENVER HOXHA, Stalinist dictator of Albania, used fictitious histories which glorified himself and slandered his enemies to keep control over his nation.

be put in the place of the real world because it contains elements of experience as well as elements of reality. And its most successful effect is that it makes people unable to differentiate between ideology and reality. It puts obedience and obligation in the place of judging and responsibility.

...A retrospective look at the Eichmann debate led Arendt to differentiate between traditional and modern lies. If traditional lies are told, relevant information is withheld from the public. However, the peculiarity about modern lying is that it destroys reality and replaces it with an image of reality. Modern lying replaces truth with an image of it. The image no longer belongs to the original; it belongs instead to political propaganda. For example, what the specialists in the offices for national security did during the Vietnam War was to replace facts with images of the factual world.

A modern lie is not an obvious lie because it no longer relates to an individual action but to the entire political sphere. Its purpose is to confuse citizens to such a degree that they no

longer feel capable of making judgments. Even more, image-reality tempts citizens by asking for their confidence and belief (for example, in democratic elections citizens trust their representatives and give them executive powers). Those pursuing the strategy of an image-reality have the intention of convincing people that unreserved confidence must be placed in the executive authorities and in the so-called experts.

To use a term coined by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida, a "counter-truth" is spread, created to mislead the public. A prerequisite for the creation of a "counter-truth" seems to be that the common sense distinction between right and wrong is confused, not only within individuals but also in the political sphere. Thus, truth becomes a "performative act".

The goal is to suspend the ability of citizens to judge. Arendt describes this modern type of lying as "destroying" and she gives two reasons for this: first, because it damages people's confidence in the political body, and second, because it attacks the fundamentals of the polity: the citizen's ability to judge and to act.

The counterpart of the lie is the "internal self-delusion" of the liars: that is, presenting something as true although they know that it is untrue. The liars know that they tell lies, but they give the impression that they believe their lies are true. Arendt calls this "organized lying dominating the public realm" typical for modernity. It means that an outside matter is transformed into an inside issue. As a result, truth becomes a matter of opinion.

There are similar mechanisms in the world of lies and in the world of ideology. However, the main difference is that totalitarian ideology is linked to systematic terror whereas lying in democracies belongs to acting. A totalitarian regime leads to a regime of evil; a democracy is able to unveil the network of lies in order to bring the executive power under control and restore the body politic.■

READ THE FULL ARTICLE AT:

http://www.findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m2267/is_2_69/ai_90439536/pg_1

THE BIRTH OF INDEPENDENT PENGUINEA

Qator Itrîns is pleased to reprint the following editorial by Miestrâ Schivâ from *The Southern Cross*, v. 2 n. 1 (11 November 1997) concerning the secession from Talossa of the founders of the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.

I read my email on the 26th of September [1997], New Zealand time, feeling more upbeat about Talossa than I had in a long time. The campaign for autonomy for Southern Hemispherean Talossans, co-ordinated between myself and Evan Gallagher, appeared to be nearing some sort of completion. Sources close to Talossa's King and Immigration Minister, Ben Madison, informed us that he was near to accepting our compromise proposal which would have allowed us to set up our own polity in the old Port Maxhestic Territory in the extreme south of [metropolitan] Talossa. Evan and I were enthusiastically working out a territorial constitution, and our friend Charles Sauls was helping design a webpage. We had been pacified from our original plans of revolt - in his last email to me as a Talossan, Evan said, **"I don't want to get rid of Ben... I just want him to be the benevolent father of the nation, and not ruin Talossa by becoming a crotchety old fart. I am not revolutionary, I'm evolutionary."**

...I was happily working on the sixth issue of the *Southern Cross* when I received an email from Senior Cort Justice, head of the Senate, Grand General Secretary of Maritiimi-Maxhestic, PC President, Minister of Culture and Defence, and Ben Madison's close personal friend, John Jahn... It contained the following paragraph on my citizenship:

Well, Ben called me tonight with an update on that. It doesn't look good, I'm afraid. Nevtheless, you can re-apply in 6 months (and I hope you will). I also hope that, regardless, we can continue "talking."

You can imagine my reaction. I was shattered. I'd poured my soul into

Talossa for five long months, for no reward. My citizenship was scuttled by the abstention of Justice Matthias Muth, who had never once communicated with me personally, nor even read most of my contributions to the various online discussion groups. I can only conclude that his major source of information on my personality and suitability (and that of Ian Kabell, who was also



The Penguinian flag

rejected) was that communicated to him by Ben Madison. Previously, I had identified Ben Madison's virtual monopoly of communication between cyberTalossa and the rest of the country as a major problem in relations - we knew that if Cybers pissed Ben off, there was precious little way they'd ever hear any good about us. Now, it had ruined my citizenship chances.

I had been brought home to the fact that if you piss Ben off, you don't get anywhere in Talossa... So, I waited for official notification of the bad news, and wondered whether I would bother reapplying. My mind was made up for me when it was communicated to me that Ben Madison's statement had been that my application could be reconsidered once I learned "respect for my elders" - i.e., learning to do whatever Ben and his cronies said. I then decided the only thing that would make me interested in Talossa again was a personal apology from its government, for the way I was kept dangling for five or six months before

being rejected on no better grounds than I was causing problems for the Talossan power structure.

The Exodus Begins

Evan Gallagher and Ryan Hughes had mentioned to me previously that, if I wasn't accepted as a Talossan, they would seriously reconsider their place in the country. The very next time I read my email, they proved as good as their word.

Evan Gallagher announced his resignation of all his Talossan Government posts and his Talossan citizenship in a circular email the next day. The same day, he asked me personally whether I'd be interested in helping him set up a new micronation. I agreed wholeheartedly. Ian Kabell, rejected at the same time as myself for equally flimsy reasons, accepted our invitation wholeheartedly. Ryan Hughes also expressed enthusiasm, but required time to think about it. However, when I expressed the idea of coming to join us to my other Talossan wellwishers, they mainly recoiled in horror. A couple expressed interest, but quickly fell by the wayside. It seems that, even though they knew what was wrong in Talossa, they thought it better to stay and fight. Those of us who came with us agreed unanimously that Evan should be the chief spokesman, and provisional Protector [head of state], of our new nation.

One of our most difficult early decisions was on the name of our new country. We knew that taking the name "Penguinia" would link us forever to our Talossan past, and enable our Talossan enemies to regard us as "secessionists" and worse who'd planned this all along. On the

tgistôriã

plus side, it meant we could use our old heraldic symbols, and the Penguinian language that we'd started developing before it was cruelly squashed. On balance, we decided we didn't care that much what Talossa thought of us.

Our independence was proudly declared on October 16th - coincidentally, my twenty-third birthday. Not surprisingly, we were declared "traitors" by Ben Madison - pretty rich, considering that several of us were prevented from becoming citizens by his machinations. But we were pretty much determined to avoid any excess Talossa-bashing. We really want to be on good terms with the nation which has shaped so much of our perspective - if its Government would just stop badmouthing us, please.

So what the hell do we think we're doing?

May history, and our Talossan friends and colleagues, judge us charitably for our actions. I think that you all deserve some explanation....

When we first decided to become Talossan citizens, it was because of what was promised in the glossy publicity of the websites - the continuous seventeen years of history, the thriving culture and free press, the "freewheeling multiparty democracy". What we have discovered, in actual experience, is a nation that appears to be slipping back into the personal fantasy fiefdom whence it arose. A country where cultural uniformity is rigorously enforced, dissenters are not considered "real citizens" and any criticism of government figures is taken as a personal attack is not the kind of country we want to live in. ... We failed in our mission to make the Talossa we loved into a free, democratic nation. We are accepting our failure, and going somewhere where we might have a chance of success - our brand new Commonwealth.

It finally became obvious to us that Ben Madison believes he has sole exclusive right to determine how Talossa's future should look. In the immortal words of John Eiffler, "Talossa is Ben's sandbox, but just don't try to grab his spade". Let's face reality, friends: Talossa is what Ben says it is, and if you disagree, he won't consider you a "real Talossan", no matter if you've been an enthusiastic devotee for years. That's perfectly understandable. He started the country, he put in the hard yards, he's kept it going. Perhaps he's entitled to run it as a personal fief. But we don't want to be in a country, however well-equipped and stable, that's run as a personal fief



The Penguinian coat of arms

by even such a saintly genius as Ben Madison undoubtedly is. We want to be part of a country where everyone gets a say in what it is.

...As Ben clearly states, he doesn't consider anyone who disagrees with him or his party a "real Talossan". Elections are fine, so long as the Opposition never win, because the Opposition aren't true Talossans. If people oppose the Government, it's not the Government's fault, it just means that the wrong people have immigrated. Does this kind of talk scare you? It scares us. There's a word for a country where all "real citizens" support the Government, and it's not a very nice one.

... If it was just a matter of disagreeing with Ben's opinions, we'd surely have stood our ground. But Ben Madison appears to seriously believe that anyone who disagrees with him is not only "not a Talossan", but is his

history

personal enemy. We all have great respect for Ben, and everything he's done. But we can't be expected to find it pleasant when he's accusing us of trying to destroy his country by disagreeing with him, and arguing our case rationally and politely. All of us have tried to remain his friends, whilst disagreeing with his statements and actions. He's proved to us that this is impossible. This didn't make us feel good. And if we're not enjoying ourselves, why bother?

It's only recently that Ben's decided that the opposition aren't "real Talossans", that deviation from his official view of what Talossa is is unacceptable, and (most recently) that he and he alone should have final say on who is a Talossan. Ben seems determined to reestablish the control over his country that he had when it was only his bedroom.

Thus, as sad as it is, we find ourselves forced to become political refugees from the nation we adopted into our hearts. We still love Talossa - it's just that according to its King, we can't be "real citizens" if we dare to dissent. We are therefore striking out to form our own "model nation" - an independent Commonwealth, based on principles of personal liberty, separation of powers and cultural diversity. We're taking with us the name we were going to use for our own little part of Talossa, before we were told that we had to conform or die - this is purely for historical reasons, to remind us of where we came from.

We are sorry. We never meant it to come to this. But it's become obvious that we could either agree to conform to the official "Talossan way of doing things" - which we found profoundly antidemocratic and increasingly unpleasant - or Talossa was not for us. And if you agree with most things that we've said in this article, then... well, there is a place at our table for all of good will who wish to join us.■

What can you do for your country?

Talossa now has 25 years of continuous history. If Talossa had been a couple, it would be celebrating its silver anniversary.

What makes a couple survive 25 years? Some say it is communication. Others say it is complicity. However, a big majority say it is love.

In his bestselling book *the road less travelled*, Scott Peck defines love as being “the will to extend one’s self for the purpose of nurturing one’s own or another’s personal growth”. The more you try to help a person grow, the stronger you will feel in love with that person.

The love for one’s country is called patriotism, and it follows the same rules as love in the context of a couple. John F. Kennedy said it best: “Ask not what your country can do for you—ask what you can do for your country”. Many Talossans have expressed deep patriotism for the Republic of Talossa since its beginning, extending their boundaries to help the nation’s growth. Spending hours working for their nation, when they could have used that time otherwise.

Dr Schivä, by spending countless hours publishing *Qator Itrins* every month, or by supervising the Constitutional Convention process, has proven her love for the Republic, showing she is willing to spend time on it despite her busy schedule. [*Senza complimenti!* - Ed.]

Dean Cavéir, by working on his book “Dare Something Worthy” and on Radio Free Talossa has shown an example that a few are willing to try to follow.

Andy Lowry, who spends numerous hours every month, if not week, guiding and tutoring prospectives and friends also proves to the world his devotion to the Republic. Even the help I got on the Talossan-



MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR is Secretary to the Provisional Governing Council.

language.com dictionary from Gödafrüeu Válcadác’h was a great proof of dedication from his part, while he is working on his book on Talossa.

But for many, that love is merely expressed in their irregular posts on Wittenberg, or some infrequent collaborations such a single page or two on Talossapedia.com.

I tried to hint at it in several QI articles: the strength of a micronation is a combination of several factors, the most important one being the level of activity of its citizens. A micronation with great democracy, a lot of good citizens and a strong cultural identity is nothing if its citizens are apathetic.

In order for a micronation to flourish, it needs it’s citizens to be literally hyper-active. It needs you, personally.

I now officially launching the **Weekly**

Workers Club. In order to be a member, the only requirement a citizen needs to follow, is to produce at least one act of love for his country per week. It can be to write a new page for the TalossaPedia project. It can be to translate a page from Talossa.net into another language. It can be to write an article for the *Seifetzueascâ* newsletter, or for *Qator Itrins*.

It doesn’t need a lot of time. An hour or two per week is sufficient. Half an hour if it is all you can spare. Do it while eating breakfast on Saturdays, take 10 minutes every lunch break to compose a little something or post one less message on Wittenberg this week and one more page for a website of Talossa. It doesn’t really matter what you do, as long as you do it to help the nation grow.

Even though Talossa has 25 years, it doesn’t look that old from the point of view of an Internet visitor. Many online micronations have more content online than Talossa has, despite having sometimes less than 5 citizens.

But where I place my hopes, is in the TalossaPedia project. It is an opportunity for all Talossans to express their diverging opinions on a variety of subjects. It is a chance to note every passing historical moment and documenting it for future reference. When something occurs, the reflex of every citizen should be to visit the Talossapedia to update a page on that subject, or create a new one.

My vision is for the Talossapedia to become a repository of all of what Talossa is. An impartial replacement for Ar Pats, or at least, the primary information source for its redaction.

Many of you have grown apathetic following the Halloween Crisis. It is time to put Talossa back into your life. It is time to take action and show the world the love you have for your nation. After all, it is not every year that a micronation turns 25.■

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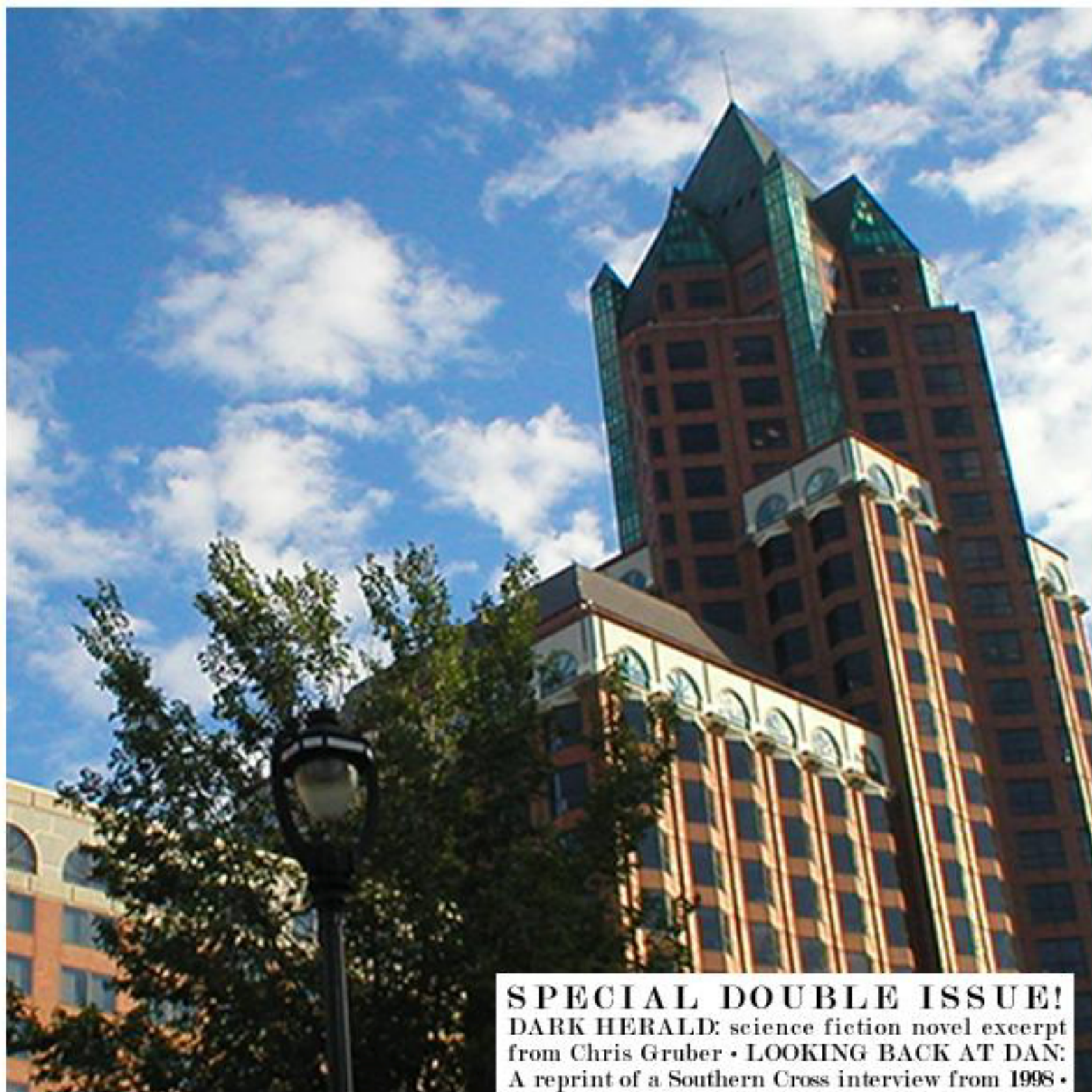
Covers by Chirisch Cavéir.

GUIDALIGÑHÂS PËR COMTRIBUÇADÉIRS GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 1,500 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. **Să vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossán!**

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VOLUME I, No. 6/7

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

editorial

No More Monarchs. Ever.

The sixth issue of **Qator Itrîns** marks a turning point in the history of the Republic's culture – because it is the first issue for which I myself do not take primary responsibility. Quite apart from being editor in chief of this newsmagazine, and Chair of the Constitutional Committee, back in the real world I hold down two paid jobs as well as being a committed political activist and struggling musician. On top of that, I have to be as nice as possible to partner, friends, and self, so as not to turn into the kind of evil, ranting beast that my political enemies seem to think I am already – or put on weight, for that matter. You can understand why I've felt a bit like an avalanche victim recently.

So, I'd like to give my heartfelt thanks to Chrisich Cavêir for his help making sure that QI-6 got onto the virtual newsstands only a few days late. But the fact that this happened brings me onto broader themes of why I feel that our new Republic has every chance for success.

We all know in the Republic that that problem with the old Kingdom was monarchy. To be precise, that one man was the final authority, not only over all processes of government and politics in the nation, but also when it came to language, history, culture... With that kind of power, was it really a surprise that he found himself qualified to comment on who deserved to be a member of the nation – or, for that matter, on what “good” and “evil” were?

But this was not just a problem with one person's paranoia and desire for complete control. The way that the Kingdom evolved, it was *impossible* to replace the monarch. If he had been politically unseated, nothing could have taken away his massive linguistic, cultural and historical authority. Or the fact that our longest-serving and most committed citizens were all his personal friends – at least, those he hasn't alienated, yet.

The problems of this kind of “cultural monarchy” also occurred, despite the best intentions of its founding parents, in the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia. Perhaps because of the lack of a fundamental consensus about who we were and what we were doing, a “second generation” of Penguinian leadership never came to fruition. Those who came after us were frustrated when their plans and schemes came into contact with the founders – who could not be replaced, since we had neglected to build structures strong enough that could survive without our support. From that came the civil strife that split us apart.

In the Republic, thankfully, we seem to be avoiding that. No person or persons “embody” the Republic. Transferral of power from one Dean to another has been carried off almost as easily as a shift in the editorship of our main journal. If, once the Constitution is ratified and we enter the post-revolutionary period, we can make sure that there is truly no monarchy, or oligarchy, in the Republic's culture as well as its governmental structure, then we will surely continue to thrive.■



Miestrâ Schivâ “The Republic's Most Articulate Spokeswhatever”

tent pasat me dûcia als tgemâs pû vastâs da pêrqet sentéu qê ár nouâ República tent totsörtâ da escasença pêr sucçêß.

Noi toct säpent dîn la República qê el problüm cün el Regipäts vell füt la monarc'hâ. Estarê preciat, qê viens vür füt el ec'htiär finâl, non solamînt övêr toct i proceßs del governmáintsch és dels politici dîn la naziun, más ocsâ övêr el ghelget, la tgistôriâ, la culturâ... Cün 'n tál pêvâre, füt-ça vrâtsmînt 'n surpriçâ qê o se tent xhuxhat solid comentar övêr qî deserveva estarê citaxhiên - eda, în aceastâ tgemâ, övêr qê füt “bunâ” és “caitivêtz”?

Más acest füt 'n problüm non solamînt övêr iens perziun sê paranôia és desireu pêr el contról compläts. Come evolveva el Regipäts, ça füt *impouçiväl* remplaçar el monarc'h. Schi o füt overtgruat politicálmînt, nitgil pogñhéva utförar sieu autgoritâ maßivâ ghelgetgeascâ, culturál és tgistôric. Eda el fäts qê ár citaxhiêns els pû iresoluváis és zedicats füvent toct sieu amici perziunáis - à mhîus, acestilor qê o non tent lor aglhenats, détxâ.

Els problüms dal tál “monarc'hâ culturál” ocsâ tiennent paßat, zesplitzi las întenziuns pû bunâs de sieu parêmts fundéirs, en el Estát Común Liverat da Penguinia. Salacôr à c'hauçâ dal mancançâ d'iensâ cuñcertâ fundamáintschäl övêr qî noi füvent és qê noi façevent, 'n “xheneraziun secund” del duceátx Pengouër non tent vienat txamáis àl ráifâ. Acestilor qî tent vienat ospréi noi els fundéirs zevenevent ancumbrats quând lor plâns venevent în contäcts cün els noschtri - qî non püvent estarê remplaçats, parç qê noi tigñhovent negleptat constructar dels strütürs qî pogñhevent sùrvivar sânc ár supört. Da ça tent venescü el stráid citânäl qî noi tent ripat.

Dîn la República, remerceatmînt, noi finxhiválmînt esvitent acest. Aucün perziun eda perziuns “incorpora” la República. L'aßignaziun da pêvarê d'iens Provastoür àl 'n altreu füt executat prescâ sâ fátgilmînt qê schmovar el redactéirmáintsch d'ar xhurnal mágñh. Schi, quând noi ratificarhent la Constituziun és noi entrarhent el pieriôt ospréi-revoluziun, noi pêvárhent sigüar qê ja vrâtsmînt aucün monarc'ha, eda oligarc'ha, dîn la República sê culturâ ocsâ qê strütür da governmáintsch, aglhôrc sigürmînt noi continuarhent tgrivar.■

dal redactéir

Non pû dels Monarc'hs. Txamáis.

L'ißútâ sextâ da **Qator Itrîns**, c'è 'n marqeu sviarsînd dîn la tgistôriâ dal República sê culturâ - parç qê c'è l'ißútâ prümâ pêr qê eu steçéu non sînt primármînt rêspunçiväl. Ben separatmînt da estarê redactéir-prima d'acest noveschtxhurnäl, és Fosteghlâ dal Comitâ Constituziunäl, zürüc dîn el mundeu vräts eu téu douâ posteux paxhats ocsâ qê estarê 'n activistâ politicál és 'n musiceán luc'htînd. Ocsâ, eu fost estarê sâ sümpâ qê pouçiväl, pêr qê eu non zevenadréu 'n bestâ sâ mál és lorentzînd (!!!) qê va enemici politicáis me xhuxhent détxâ. Si pût cumprenca pêrqet téu sentiat dacuört 'n pô come 'n victi d'iensâ saraivâ.

Aglohôrc, vèladréu zonarê va gras-châs cjartaloür à Chrisich Cavêir pêr sieu aßistançéu pêr sigüar qê QI-6 tent cicat às cabinâs virtuáis da xhurnáis solamînt schpéit aliquînds ziuâs. Más el fäts qê acest

Our Constitution Takes Shape

By the time the next issue of this magazine comes out in April, Talossa should have its new constitution and elected government up and running.

Only minor amendments to the draft produced by the Constitutional Committee have so far been passed by the full Convention. The most important of these were:

- to impose term limits for the Presidency of the Republic
- to require any Presidential pardons to be approved in referendum;
- to increase the size of the Senäts relative to the Chamber of Deputies;
- to remove the requirement for the

Prime Minister (*Seneschäl*) to have been a citizen for a year.

Amendments to tidy up impeachment procedures and the process for ratifying the constitution were also approved. Amendments to remove the length-of-service requirements for the President and Senators were defeated.

However, the face of the document could still be altered radically in response to the people's will. An amendment which would abolish the Senäts altogether and make Parlamînt unicameral is being voted on as we went to press, and looks like getting significant support.

Once these amendments are decided upon, the document as a whole will be checked by the Committee for wording and coherence, and then presented to the people in a "Yes/No" referendum. A two-thirds majority and half the nation voting will be required. Thereupon, the people will elect a President and Chamber of Deputies, with the Senäts following a month later (if it's not abolished in the current round.)

Our original intention was to publish the whole draft Constitution in this issue. Instead, since major parts of Title Two are still up for debate, we print below only Title One. See the next *Qator Itrins* for the final text of Title Two.

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE REPUBLIC OF TALOSSA

Title One: Points of State

ARTICLE ONE: THE REPUBLIC

1. The name of the State, in the national language, is la República Talossán. In English, the name of the State is The Republic of Talossa, citizens of which shall be referred to hereafter as "Talossans".
2. The Republic of Talossa is a democratic, secular and social federal state. All state authority emanates from the people. The population, by means of elections, exercises this authority.
3. A) The territory of the Republic of Talossa consists of the territories of those Provinces of the former Kingdom of Talossa known as Cézembe, Florenciâ, Maricopa, and Maritiimi-Maxhestic.

B) The Republic of Talossa hereby also claims as a part of her territory the villages of Shorewood and Whitefish Bay, both formerly of the State of Wisconsin in the United States of America and formerly claimed by the Kingdom of Talossa as well as the entirety of the census tracts of the United States of America which encompass those parts of the City of Milwaukee west of points equidistant between the banks of the Milwaukee River, east of points equidistant between the curbs of United States Interstates 43 and 94, north of points equidistant between the banks of the Menomonee River, all portions of the City of Milwaukee south of the village of Glendale, the village of Glendale itself, the campus of Cardinal Stritch College, and the campus of Marquette University.

C) The Republic of Talossa lays no claim to those provinces of the Kingdom of Talossa known as Atatürk, Mussolini, and Vuode as well as the Territory of Pengöpäts.
4. The National Flag of Talossa is the green and red vertical bicolour with four stars arranged in a diamond in the center of the flag. The green stands for democracy and its virtue; the red for the people and their tenacity. The four stars stand for the four provinces which seceded from the Kingdom of Talossa on 1 June, 2004/xxv/l.



5. The Coat of Arms of Talossa shall exist in two forms: the Lesser State Arms and the Greater State Arms. The Lesser State Arms is an oval shield, long axis vertical, divided vertically in green and red halves, bearing four stars arranged in a diamond in the center. The Greater State Arms consists of the Lesser State Arms with two squirrels as supporters, and as base a scroll bearing the legend "AUDE ALIQUID DIGNUM." Either form of the Coat of Arms of Talossa may be used for official and patriotic purposes.
6. The official motto of the Republic shall be "Aude Aliquid Dignum"; in the national language, "Defisetz Qualse'cosâ Denâ"; in English, "Dare Something Worthy".
7. The national language shall be the Talossan language. English shall be permissible as a useful second language.
8. The capital of the Republic is the Mitchell Building, Pört Maxhestic Province.
9. The political parties of the Republic participate in the formation of the political spirit of the people. Their internal organization must conform to democratic ethics. They must openly report their finances.
10. Parties that seek to harm or destroy the free democratic basic order or to imperil the survival of the Republic are unconstitutional.

11. The civil officials are servants of the whole community. To all civil officials freedom of political opinion and of association are assured.
12. If a civil official in the exercise of the authority conferred upon him or her by law fails to perform his or her official duty, the accountability is assumed by the province or public corporation in whose service the official is.
13. The general regulations of public international law form part of Republic law. They take priority over the laws of the Republic. Actions undertaken with the aim of disturbing peaceful associations between nations are unconstitutional.
14. This Constitution shall be the supreme law of the Republic. All laws which contradict this Constitution are invalid to the extent of that contradiction.

ARTICLE TWO: CITIZENSHIP

1. As at the ratification of this Constitution, the citizens of the Republic of Talossa shall be the signers of the Declaration of Independence; as well as all those individuals who have been granted citizenship under the jurisdiction of the Provisional Governing Council.
2. Hereinafter, citizenship shall be determined by law.
3. No member of the former royal family of Talossa, the House of Rouergue, shall be admitted as a citizen of the Republic.
4. Throughout this Constitution, the words "Talossan citizen" shall apply only to citizens of the Republic, but shall include any Talossan citizenship prior to the passing of this Constitution.

ARTICLE THREE. THE PROVINCES

Territory and assignment of citizens

1. The founding Provinces of the Republic of Talossa

shall be Cézembre, Florenciã, Maricopa, Maritiimi, and Port Maxhestic.

2. A) Every citizen of the Republic who lives outside the territory of any Province shall be assigned to a Province by act of Parlamînt.
- B) The "citizens of a Province" shall include all citizens resident in the territory of that province, as well as any non-resident citizen assigned to that Province.
3. Parlamînt shall assign non-resident citizens to provinces on the basis of their geographical residence. The assignment of citizens to a province shall not be changed without the approval of that province's legislature, if any.
4. Each Province's executive, legislative and judicial powers shall be exercised in accordance with a Provincial constitution, adopted by a majority in referendum of no less than two-thirds of the citizens of that Province.
5. New provinces may be formed by Parlamînt from any territory which may be claimed in future by the Republic under Title One, Article One of this constitution.
6. New provinces may be formed out of the territory of existing provinces by Parlamînt, with the consent of the legislature of those existing Provinces.

The Powers of the Provinces

7. a) The provinces have the power to legislate or take executive decisions on any subject concerning which this Constitution does not bestow exclusive legislative powers on the Republic.
- b) If the Republic does not exercise its executive or legislative authority in an area which this Constitution entitles it to do so, the right of authority remains with the provinces. This does not apply in cases where the Republic is granted exclusive authority.
8. Each Province has the exclusive authority over:
 - a) its forms of government;
 - b) its cultural, social and linguistic identity.
9. The Republic has the exclusive authority over:
 - a) Foreign affairs as well as defense;
 - b) Citizenship;
 - c) Freedom of movement, immigration and emigration, and extradition;
 - d) Currency, money, and coinage;
 - e) Postal and telecommunication services;
 - f) The employment of those in Republic organizations;
 - g) Industrial and intellectual property rights;
 - h) Colonial policy.
10. In all other matters, decisions of the Federal Government and Parlamînt shall take precedence over decisions of the Provinces. The High Court shall arbitrate in any dispute between Federal and Provincial governments or legislatures, and its decision shall be final.
11. The officers directly charged with the administration of Republic affairs in any province shall, as a rule, be citizens of that province.

ARTICLE FOUR: DECLARATION OF FREEDOMS AND PROTECTIONS

Introduction

1. The rights granted by this Article shall apply to all citizens of the Republic, and also to all those who register with the Government as prospective citizens according to law.
2. No decision of the Government, or of any Minister or government official, may override these rights. These rights form part of the Constitution of the Republic.
3. Any citizen may seek redress in the Courts against the Government, or any citizen or corporation of the Republic, for violation of these rights.

Equality

4. All persons are equal before the law. This is the right of individual value.
5. No one may be prejudiced or favored due to sex, parentage, race, language, homeland or origin, faith, religious or political opinions, or sexual orientation.

Open Freedoms

6. Everyone has the right to the free progress of his or her person insofar he or she does not violate the rights of others or violate any law within the Republic.
7. Everyone has the right to life and to the sanctity of his or her person. The right of individual value is sacred.

Freedom of Expression

8. Everyone has the right freely to express and to propagate his or her belief by speech, writing, and pictures and freely to inform him or herself from publicly available sources.
9. Freedom of the press and of reporting by electronic communications is guaranteed. There shall be no censorship. Secrecy of all communications is sacred. Restrictions may be ordered only pursuant to a law.

Freedom of Belief

10. Freedoms of faith and of conscience, and freedom of creed, religious or ideological, are sacred. The undisturbed practice of religion is guaranteed.
11. The government shall neither endorse or support any organized religious group, nor make any practice that may reasonably be seen as an endorsement.

Freedom of Association

12. All Talossans have the right to form associations and societies.
13. Associations, the objects or activities of which conflict with the criminal laws or which are directed against the constitutional order or the concept of international relations, are prohibited.
14. The right to form labor associations is guaranteed to everyone and to all trades and professions. Agreements that confine or seek to obstruct this right are null and void.
15. All Talossans have the right to assemble peacefully without prior notification or permission.

Freedom to Voice Opinion

16. Every Talossan has the right to petition the suitable authorities or to their representatives. This right may be exercised by individuals as well as by several persons together.
17. It shall be the right of all citizens to vote on or after their fourteenth birthday.

Inviolability of Privacy and Property

18. The home is sacred. Searches may be ordered only by a judge and may be carried out only in the mode set by law. Otherwise, this sacredness may be encroached upon or limited only to avoid a common danger to individuals.
19. The right to ownership of and the protection of property is guaranteed but implies duties.

Intellectual Property

20. Intellectual labor, the rights of the author, the inventor, the composer, and the artist enjoy the special protection and care of the Republic.
21. The products of Talossan scholarship, art, and technical science shall also be recognized and protected abroad through international agreement.

Application of Rights

22. Insofar as under this Constitution a basic right may be restricted by or only pursuant to a law, the law must apply generally and not solely to an individual case. Furthermore, the law must name the basic right, indicating the article.
23. In no case may a basic right be infringed upon in its essential content.
24. The basic rights apply also to corporations established under Talossan public law to the extent that the nature of such rights permits.

Restrictions

25. The freedom of the individual may be restricted only in accord with the formal law and only with appropriate regard to the law.
26. Any person charged with an offense must be brought before a judge the day following the charge. From there, the detainee shall be informed of the reasons for the charge, and be given an opportunity to raise objection.

Right to Fair Hearing

27. In the courts everyone is entitled to a hearing in accordance with the law.
28. An act can be punished only if it was a punishable offense by law prior to the act.
29. No one may be punished for the same act more than once in pursuance of general penal legislation.
30. Bills of attainder are illegal. A bill of attainder is a legislative act which inflicts punishment without judicial trial and includes any legislative act which takes away the rights of a particular named or easily ascertainable person or group of persons without due process before the Courts.

Let A Hundred Flowers Bloom

A magnet is useless alone. It is the combination of a magnet and of either a magnetic surface or another magnet that creates the magic.

Citizens of a micronations are like magnets. A single citizen posting on a forum isn't a micronation. It is the interaction between several citizens that creates the nation.

We can clearly see it on Wittenberg. There can be a few days without any activity, and suddenly a new thread will spark interest, prompting citizens that have been inactive for several days or even weeks to jump back into action.

The opposite is also true. After a holiday or any period where there is little activity, threads are becoming old and forgotten. Activity is low and if it continues, it risks to generate a period of general apathy.

But that only concerns quantity. Quality and diversity are also two important factors. During the last US election, the Halloween crisis or any other period where the debate is polarized around a single theme, individuals not concerned by the theme will fade away, uninterested by the current discussions, despite the activity being at peak.

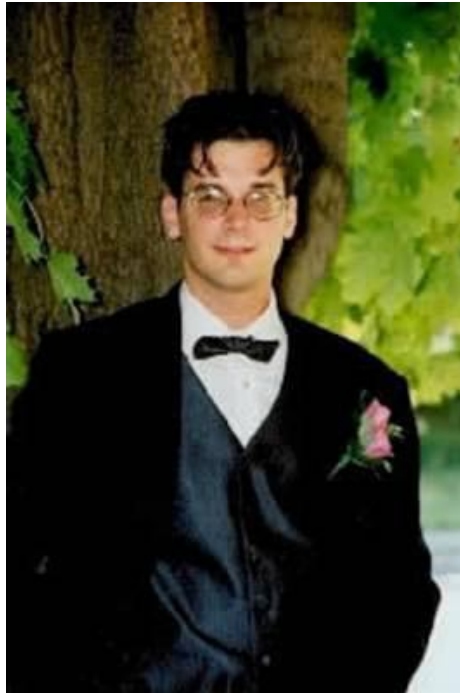
To complicate the matter, during these period of great "mono" activity, a single new thread might spark unnoticed between two giants that would otherwise interest several temporarily silent citizens, frustrating the poster.

In these periods, some interesting threads for the majority of citizens might scroll away simply because new threads are added between two duelling members.

To partly solve this problem, we have created several forums. This allows them to be specialized and avoid the day to day activity of Wittenberg, keeping threads on the first page for days, weeks, months.

This can facilitate long-term discussions, as both the Mitchell forum and the Constitutional convention have proven successfully.

But it has failed miserably for the Database Design forum, and isn't a major success for



MARTI-PÁIR FURXHÉIR shares his ideas on how to keep discussion flourishing in the Republic's online forums.

the language forum either, most likely because most users do not visit these areas, assuming that they will not find interesting subjects.

Even the Mitchell forum needs a little push, reminders on Wittenberg to visit it when a vote takes place.

"Mono" activity also has another side effect, which even plural subjects matters cannot really erase. Most of the activity on a forum is composed of replies to existing messages, with generally only a few posters creating new threads.

As such, forums tend to gravitate around a few favourites subject matters, giving a long term theme which may push certain members aside.

This clearly occurred during the Halloween crisis and the following months. Several citizens that were previously active slipped into the shadows, avoiding the fights. Some returned fully after June 1st, but many aren't as active as before, having possibly replaced their Talossan time with other occupations. Similarly, "mono" activity will also attract only a certain kind of people, those interested in the subject at hand. It will also tend to

attract single-dimension individual, people only interested in one subject such as politics or power plays. These people will also tend to fade away faster when the subject is changed, with their primary interest lost.

Plural subjects matters on the other hand, will attract a wider range of people, with a wider range of interests, who can connect to the nation on multiple levels. These citizens are easy to recognize : they try participate in a variety of activities or at least, talk about them. They form long term friendships with other citizens and take the time to establish bonds with others.

I believe that the periods of great immigration in both the Kingdom and the new Republic have occurred mostly in these now rare windows of wide range of activities.

This is equation is not complex to understand : the more we talk about something, the more interactions we have on a subject, and the more likely we will attract people interested in those subjects.

On a different light, there as been a debate in the past on whether we should talk about the Kingdom of Talossa, or totally ignore it's actions. As long as we were talking about the Kingdom publicly, we were not focusing on the love of our country, but rather on the hate of another.

This could only attract hateful discussions and negative people. Since we stopped and focused more on what was happening inside the Republic, we have seen a wave of new interesting friends and prospectives, and as long as we will focus on our own nation building, I predict this wave will continue.

But we need to continue to diversify our talks. We need to keep opening up to other subjects. We need, like in the good old days when I first joined Talossa, clubs like the Science-Fiction and Whiskey club. We needs many cultural endeavours to help each citizen, prospective, friend and even a first time visitor of the Republic, to find his or her own place.

Yes, we could even attract more female citizens! The Republic has four female

continued on page 12

DARK HERALD

Qator Itrins is pleased to print the first two chapters of a new science fiction novel by Chris Gruber.

Part 1: Dark Star

1

*He is the messenger of the First Cause.
May his words be forever preserved.
The First Cause shall reveal itself when
we are ready. When this occurs, then
all is revealed. His people shall be free.*

— The Cúidlath

Brigadier Dobe Feron, the commander of Base Ea, sat back in his seat at the console. He was expecting a communication from Colonel Lucan before he decided to land his ship. The QMS Sarton crew was generally known for following directives in the Book, but this seemed a little irregular, as if they were running from something, relieved to be home. The patrol near the Iron Halo that the Sarton was a part of found something, to be sure, since the colonel sent a missive via telereX1 mentioning some sort of colony on one of the asteroids.

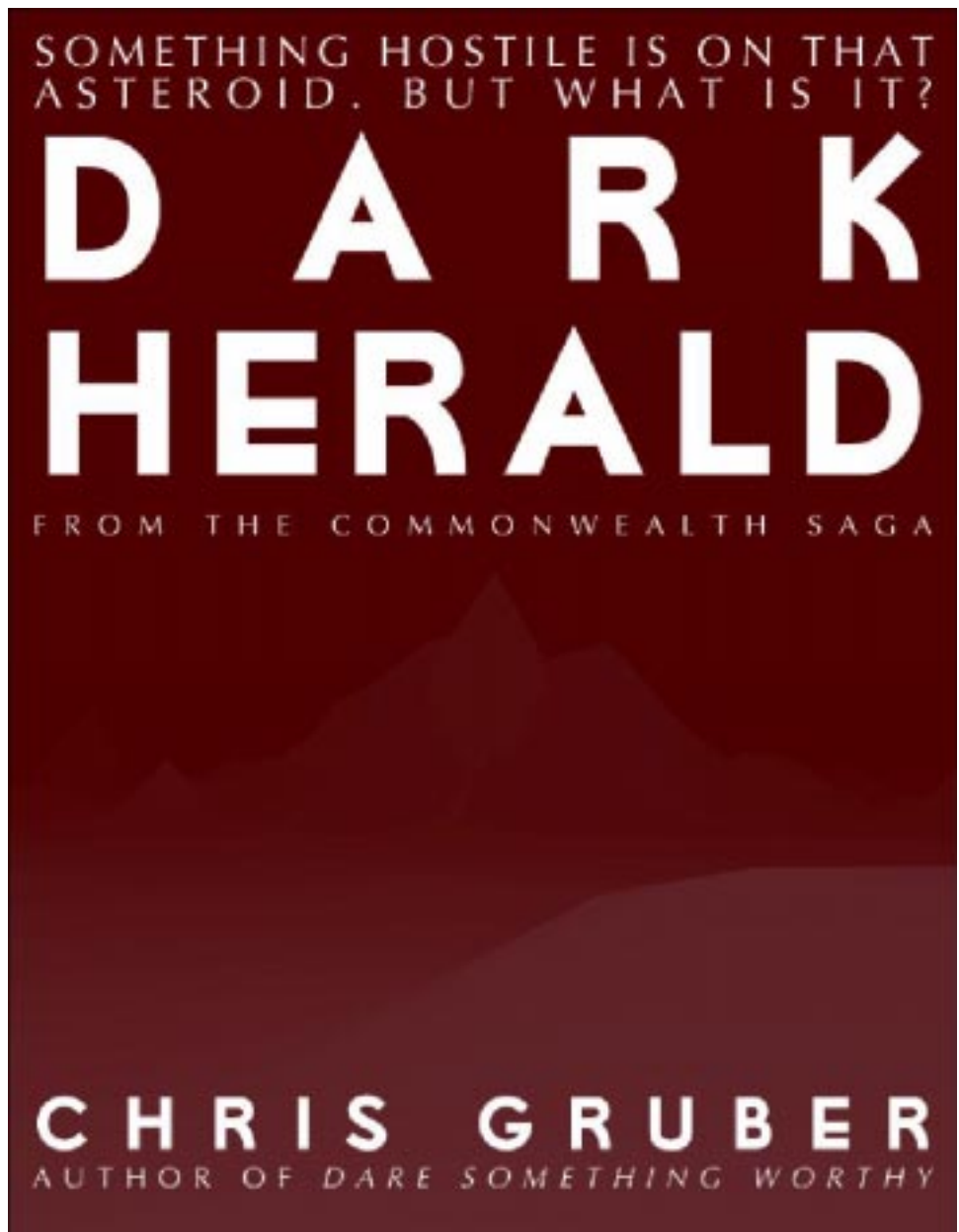
“Jat2,” he said as the ship came into range, “ten to one the colonel’s got a hell of story.”

“Yeah. He almost never fails to call ahead.” Major Jat Molna served as the brigadier’s second-in-command. He was engaged in a review of earlier patrol documents, mostly routine stuff. “Nobody else has mentioned anything out there.”

“The Cefon? The Iopa?”

“Nobody. Looks like same-old same-old out there. Quiet.” Jat was blank in expression, almost to the point of being bored.

“Hmph,” grunted Brigadier Feron.



“Maybe there’s something to that intuition of his.” Then he saw the speck.

“Here she comes.”

The Sarton crept onto the view-screen, first as a little white dot and slowly emerged on the deck with its familiar rugged form, gradually settling in the landing bay.

Jat tapped the pubbad3 and spoke, announcing: “All teams to recovery. All teams to recovery, Sarton.”

A handful of uniformed lackeys sped on foot toward the cooling spacecraft, which sat silently on the deck. One lance corporal shouted cleanup and recovery orders to the others, completing a post-flight ritual necessary for the ship’s maintenance. The door shifted, its rotors a cacophony off the walls of the reverberating space dock. The hatch dropped from underneath its weathered frame.

ficziun nouâ

Colonel Ander Lucan was a large man in both stature and attitude. He made his way down the hatch, which served as a ramp leading into and out of the Sarton. The ship itself was about as large as a small house, with a swept look about it, and a forward section with collector-style feelers on the front. It was beaten and dented, the result of multiple missions in space, pounded by debris over the years. The Sarton, as sturdy as she was, had seen better days.

Lucan muttered under his breath when he saw the recovery team. These jokers always impeded his way to the rest he looked forward to at the end of every patrol, every mission. He was worn, and tired, and damn well done with these grease-monkeys with an abundant amount of zeal. This time, he decided, he would step past them, acting as if he couldn't hear them. If anyone asks, he thought, I'll tell them my hearing was hurt by the engine work I did out there. He laughed. To hell with 'em. I don't need any excuse.

"Colonel Lucan," one started to address him, "we—" but he was cut short when he saw that Lucan didn't turn to listen. Maybe I forgot to salute him, the private thought, so he gave a belated and feeble salute, in hopes that the colonel would finally speak to him. No dice. The colonel kept walking, his hard boots tap-tap-tapping along with his whistling. Maybe he didn't hear me. "Colonel? Colonel Lucan?"

Lucan kept walking until he reached the command center, where Brigadier Feron was most likely at, he figured. He tapped the door. When it shifted open, loud servos and all, Feron was standing right there.

"Ah, Lucan." The brigadier felt comfortable with Colonel Lucan. He'd flown a few missions with him years ago and grew rather fond of the brash young soldier. Lucan did not feel the same affection, but treated the brigadier with taut, disciplined respect.

"Sir."

"How goes it?"

"Well, sir," he cleared his throat,

"we're not sure. We found something there."

"So what did you see, exactly?"

"Well, sir, it's hard to describe."

"Do your best."

"It's about... the size of a small moon. And, it seemed to be running on its own power. We haven't been able to determine if it was a craft or some sort of phenomenon. But it definitely looked like it could possibly pose a threat."

"You don't suppose..." Feron waved his hands, suggesting a large, anti-planetary weapon. Possibly aimed at Ophari4 worlds like Ea5.

"I'm just telling you that my patrol got scared. And we don't get scared."

"I understand." Feron sighed and stared at his hand for a second, deep in thought. "My question to you, Colonel," he finally said, "is: what would happen if we were to go back with a full complement and investigate, possibly land some Armor Guard on that craft, or whatever it is?" Feron stared into Lucan's eyes, intent, serious. "Would you be willing to take that risk?"

Lucan took little time in responding. "I think, yes, if absolutely necessary, and of course, if I was ordered to." He smiled slightly, almost daring the brigadier to give him an unchallengeable order to investigate. Lucan thrived on dangerous thrills, especially those few that scared him. "Something has to be done. We can't ignore this."

"We can't take the chance that it would be a threat."

"Right, sir."

"Well, then, you know what I need you to do."

"Yes, sir. I do."

"Assemble the Phoenix Unit. Get to work."

2

Ere Breisc is what they've taken to calling themselves.

new fiction

— Commonwealth Report
on the Medi Ar6 Fringe Group

"Ahem."

Chief Sergeant Sirge Nexsyn cleared his throat, standing on the deck of the QMS Sarton. The small, nimble team known as the Phoenix Unit was sitting around, geared up and waiting for the landing on the strange rock that the Military Defense Force dubbed the Broga. The Phoenix Unit was the most elite unit in the special forces division called the Special Armor Service.7

"Ahem," Nexsyn reasserted. He was second-in-command of the unit, right behind Colonel Lucan (who, for some reason, stayed on with the Phoenix Unit long after his commission), and was trying to shut up the chatter amongst the other three.

"Colonel Lucan's going to give us the lowdown," he finally said, hushing the group. "He's gonna make sure you're all ready, all prepared, all-knowing, so that when you get in there, it's nothing but Death and Destruction for any and all enemies. Is that understood?"

The guys feebly offered: "Yes, sir."

"I SAID: IS THAT UNDERSTOOD?"

"Yes, sir!" Message received, Chief.

"Alright! That sounds good. Okay, here's the arrangement for patrol: Ash!"

Sergeant Oz Ash spoke up. "Yes, sir." Ash was the biggest of the group, nearly six and a half feet tall. He had started with the Armor Guard two years earlier.

"You got point. Now, I am going to be on your left side. Mierran?"

"Yes, sir?" Kal Mierran, one of the two Hasty Twins, had been in the Armor Guard for four years now, since 6353.

"Yeah, you're on the right side."

"Yes, sir!"

"Meanwhile, on the rear, it's gonna be Arleas on the left..."

new fiction

“Yes, sir,” said Tek Arleas, the other Hasty Twin. They weren’t twins, per se, but were best friends and were smaller than your average Armor Guard. But they were good. They were called Hasty for their tag-team style rush on various outposts. It was quicker than the Colonel would have liked, but it almost always worked. They eventually nicknamed the maneuver the Hasty Blitz.

“...and Colonel Lucan will be on the right in the back.” Nexxyn took a deep breath; he hated this part: the disclaimer. “If anyone falls behind, it is up to each and every one of us to Maintain or Retrieve.” Maintain or Retrieve was standard doctrine in the SAS. “Is that understood?”

“YES, SIR.” The group wasn’t the Phoenix Unit because any renegade ways; they were the ideal for the entire Special Armor Service. They took the MoR doctrine to heart. It was like a sidecar secular religion. The bond they felt for each other wasn’t superficial or contrived. They understood that they depended upon each other to survive. Nothing can break the will, structure, or unity of the team, is what it said on the small plaque near the doorway of the Sarton. They always tapped the plaque on the way out. No team member is to be left behind.

“Alright, get your helmets on, men.”

The team collectively put their helmets on their heads. The helmets served as protection against harsher elements, provided a link to their suit’s safety and environmental systems, and even provided a decent targeting system in the visor. Of course, all communication would be through radio relay, so they’d each sound nice and crackly to each other. But it kept their heads on.

The clicking of helmets into place echoed, and the subtle hummm of each enviro-sys engaging filled the room. They were prepared.

Colonel Lucan, whose headgear was already in place, crackled in on the

relay. “Thank you very much, Chief.”

“Yes, sir.”

“Alright. We’re calling this asteroid or craft Broga. I want you all to do as you are told. We’ll be landing in a few seconds. Let me—all right—okay, get ready! Lock and load, boys!”

Ash whispered, for luck: “Let’s go.”

The Sarton drifted slowly down, with a vertical landing, so that the landing jets would make a clear area, marking their target. The engines’ hard whine slowed to a heave until the jets gave out. Its rugged husk shook as the hatch opened and the five commandoes strode out, machine rifles in hand.

“Alright, everybody out!” The team piled out in front of the craft, lining up. “Get into formation!” The group assumed its patrol form, just as Nexxyn had described when they were on board.

The surface of the rock was sandy, pebbly. The atmosphere (This moonlet has an atmosphere? thought Ash) made it feel like a sandstorm, like a perpetual night tinted deep red. Even with their helmet lights on, the crew could only see a couple hundred feet ahead of them. There was a small wind, maybe a few miles per hour, which whipped slightly over their enviro-sys suits. The atmosphere of this thing was intimidating, stifling their sights, adding an additional layer of uncertainty. It was one thing that they had no idea what to expect in the distance, but it was another that they most likely couldn’t see anything until it was too late.

We’re professionals, Nexxyn told himself, trying to ease his nerves. We’re the best in the business. That’s why they pay us. That’s why we’re here. Because no-one else in the entire system can be trusted to handle this.

Whatever the hell it is.

The gravel surface crunched under their boots as they adjusted themselves into proper position,

ficziun nouâ

double-checking their rifles. Mierran whistled a little, like he always did, and Arleas fidgeted with his helmet. He hated having to wear a head-can.

“Is this atmosphere safe?” he asked, trying to get permission to ditch the unbearable helmet.

“No!” shouted Nexxyn. “Keep it on, damn it. And don’t ask again later.”

“We need a briefing, sir,” said Mierran, changing the subject.

“Alright,” offered Lucan, “this is it how it stands: this is the Broga. We need to find out exactly what the hell it is. We also need to search and make sure that if there are any enemy on this rock, we are to maintain the peace.” The men grunted concurrence. “If we are attacked, we will defend ourselves. However, we are not here to start any fights. We will finish any that come our way. Also, if we can, we are to take back to base any and all samples.” He rose up. “I hope everyone can do their job and do it better than they ever have before. You have my confidence. This is where the Phoenix Unit gets its stripes.”

“Let’s MOVE,” said Nexxyn. “Head to that hill.” He indicated the hill to their relative northwest. It was barely visible through the reddish winds, and no-one was really sure it was a hill. It appeared to be one, a dark red bulge against the horizon that they assumed was a rising of the terrain. But calling it a hill was as good as a guess.

“Hey, Mierran,” said Arleas. “You ever see anything like this before?”

“Not in my lifetime, no.”

“It’s awfully hazy out here.”

“Reminds me of pictures of the worlds before terraforming.” The Broga’s atmosphere and terrain chaos resembled that of the various planets and moons back then. “I’ve only seen pictures and a few vid films, but...” Arleas nodded.

“It’s got me worried, though.”

“What are you worried about?”

Ash spoke up. “There’s nothing to

worry about.” He was tired of the Hasty Twins’ incessant chatter. “You guys just get worried about the strangest little things...” The Twins voiced some reluctant agreement. Ash smiled, and turned to look around when he spotted something tiny in the distance. Something yellow or white. Something brilliant. A light. To their left. “Wait – did you guys see that light?”

“Where?” asked Lucan.

“To the west.”

They all stood quietly for a second, staring westward. There was nothing there but whistling wind.

“I don’t see a damn thing, Ash,” groused Nexsyn. “What am I looking for?”

Just then the light reappeared, a second-long blink of yellowish white, sharp through the red haze.

“There! Did you see that?” said Ash.

The group muttered in excitement. A few What the hells and a couple of Where’s it coming from.

“What do you think, Colonel?” asked Nexsyn, now genuinely curious.

“We’d better investigate. I have a feeling we’ll find some answers in that direction. It’s not a natural light; it’s irregular. Watch.” The team kept their eyes on the same area for a little while longer and saw that, indeed, the light coming from the west did come back on and go out at least twice in two seconds. “Alright. Heading west!”

The three younger men, Ash, Arleas, and Mierran, began to feel a little ill at east.

“What if it’s some sort of military installation?” Ash asked. “Maybe there’s an army waiting for us. What’s the plan then?”

Nexsyn, ever the impatient soldier, asked “What kind of army?”

“I don’t know. Like... like the Medi Ar or something.”

The team laughed this suggestion off.

“Aw, the Medi Ar ain’t going to be around here; that’s crazy,” said Mierran. “This is the Iron Halo. Medi



ABOUT THE AUTHOR: *Chris Gruber, in addition to being the author of the Commonwealth Saga and several other books (including the definitive early history of the Republic of Talossa, Dare Something Worthy), is a father, fiancé, former radio newscaster, and attendee of the Democratic National Convention. He lives in Tallahassee, Florida, and happily owns a Macintosh.*

Ar ain’t going to set up camp on a bloody asteroid.”

“Aw, shut up, Mierran. It’s completely possible. The way the Medi Ar work is nomadic anyway. Why not have a few outposts in the middle of the Ophari territories?”

“Oh, it’s not. You’re being paranoid.”

“I’m being cautious, damn it.”

“Listen, all of you,” said Lucan, not succeeding in getting anyone’s attention in the noise of the argument. “Keep your eyes peeled, because you never know —”

Gunshot.

Then yelling. Shuffling. Pushing. Panicked searching of the horizon. Then a body hit the gravel hard.

The Colonel lay on the ground, his suit torn open with the impact of the rifle shot that hit him. The Phoenix Unit was in full panic mode, with Nexsyn

trying to assess the situation. The only thing anyone could figure was that the shot came from the same place as the weird light.

Colonel Ander Lucan was dead before he hit the ground.

FOOTNOTES

1 Interspace communication system: tele-receiver was shortened in this book to telerec.

2 Pronounced “yacht.”

3 The public address system.

4 The Ophari were one of the two biggest religions, the other being the Medi Ar. Less militant than the Medi Ar, the Ophari were still pretty crusader-like in their military missions. At least 50% of the solar system considered themselves Ophari.

5 The home-world of the Ophari and the Commonwealth itself.

6 The Medi Ar were one of the three major religions of the Commonwealth. A few fundamentalist sects had broken loose and taken up military actions of their own during the wars of the last millennia or so. The typical reaction was to assume the Medi Ar were up to no good.

7 Nicknamed the Armor Guards.

DAN WARDLOW SPEAKS

EDITOR'S NOTE: Dan C. Wardlow was appointed Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Talossa in January 1998. Faced with the King continually undermining his efforts to reach a friendly peace settlement with the secessionist Free Commonwealth of Penguinia, he split from the then Royal-controlled Progressive Conservatives to found the Peace and Freedom Party of Talossa (PFPT). On 15th March 1998, despairing of the possibility of reforming the Kingdom, he quit Talossa. Four days later he gave the following interview to the Penguinian newspaper *The Southern Cross*.

Until Chris Gruber fell afoul of the King, Dan Wardlow was the most consistently vilified and slandered Prime Minister in Talossan history. *Qator Itrins* is pleased to reprint this interview, as part of our ongoing project to rectify the falsification of Talossan history. The opinions expressed in this article were those of Mr Wardlow in 1998 and may or may not bear any relation to reality.

SC: Did the vehemence of Ben Madison's aggressive smear campaign against you and your party surprise you? If so, why, considering the evidence of similar campaigns in every Talossan election on record? If not, why were you not more prepared for it, considering that you were being advised by several veterans of previous campaigns?

DW: Yes, the strident tone and the level of intensity really did surprise me. I always thought of myself as a student of Talossan history, and I thought it might, just *might* be possible to run a campaign focused on issues rather than personalities. While I was accused of campaigning on personal differences by Ben and the PC party, it was really the other way around. I had legitimate differences with Ben on the nature of Talossan democracy, and I really wished we could have discussed that publicly in the campaign. Ben and the PC leadership immediately turned it into a personal attack on Ben ... which it never was. It was a challenge to Ben to live up to the ideal democracy that he espouses publicly. In retrospect, I now understand that I had dared to say "the King has no clothes" which in Talossa, one must never do! You cannot challenge his behavior (control of all aspects of Talossan life) by questioning his words (Talossa as a free democracy). That's the lesson for history in my abortive campaign.

SC: In the lead-up to the campaign, you made a number of tactical decisions that surprised some outside observers, such as - not sacking the flagrantly obstructionist PC members in your cabinet immediately; not attempting to run for the PC candidacy and thus isolate the obstructionists from their own party; not signing the Penguinian Peace Treaty into law at your first opportunity, which acting PM Sauls has done; delaying the



Dan Wardlow in 1998

announcement of your new party, and thus allowing Ben to make the running in public debate with accusations of "treachery" and "conspiracy"; and refusing to fight fire with fire by making an election issue out of PC negative tactics, or the silly antics of their candidate Chris Gruber. Would you have done anything differently, if you had the chance over again?

DW: Possibly. Believe it or not, I tried to reconcile things within the PC party. Had we been able to craft an honest campaign strategy, I would have preferred to remain in the PC! But it quickly became apparent to me that the PC leadership (basically Ben and Ián Metáirã) wanted me out of the party because I had dared to question Ben's internal contradictions. It quickly became obvious that the party leaders were lining up behind Ben, in Metáirã's case to preserve his power structure and status in Talossa. There really wasn't an option for me other than leaving the PC. Yes, I could have sacked the entire cabinet. But the entire cabinet was not the problem, and in any event, to

presumptively have installed an unelected government just prior to elections would have been most un-democratic, and hypocritical of me.

Also, the PFPT had in its earliest discussions determined that it wanted to stick to the issues, and leave the negative campaigning to the PC. I would not consider stooping to the level of the tactics played out by Ben and Ián Metáirã. In fact, when I found out that Ben had been spreading half-truths and selectively edited private email which I had sent him, I sent him another email message chastising him for his dirty politics and vowing never to use those tactics against him. I easily *could* have done so. As a PC insider (however briefly), I had received enough ugly back-stabbing mail from party loyalists about each other, including mail from Ben and Ián Metáirã commenting on each other! But those were *private* and in my mind privileged communications, and I could not imagine using those for political gain. It's unseemly, undignified. Call me naive for that perspective.

SC: How would you react to suggestions that, by responding to Ben's pressure by quitting, you are not only handing a person you clearly feel deserves beating a better chance at victory, but letting down the other members of your party by depriving them of your possibly crucial vote? Do you accept that you have dealt the PFPT, and thus Talossan democracy, a mammoth blow by quitting?

DW: I didn't decide to quit until I read a very personal and insightful message posted on the discussion group Wittenberg by Talossan Ián Anglatzarã. In the message, he commented that we were nothing but actors playing out a very old script, one which had been enacted many times before. I went back and read

my Talossan history carefully, trying to read between the lines that Ben has written, and I realized that Ián had succinctly captured my despair. At that point, I couldn't continue to participate in a sham. It was so painfully obvious to me that I had been deceived by listening to Ben's platitudes about Talossan democracy as I was becoming a citizen. It was suddenly revealed to me that Talossan politics are nothing more than ritual. It is pre-ordained that the PC (or whatever party is controlled by Ben) must win the elections. The "opposition" must never be allowed to have any significant say in the country. This is the lesson of Talossan history. And those who fail to learn from history are doomed to repeat it. I'm not dumb.

SC: As an out-and-proud gay man, do you believe there to have been a homophobic undercurrent to the PC's campaign against you? On what evidence?

DW: Well, as an out gay man, you "get used" to some residual level of homophobia in your life. You learn not to internalize it (and if you don't learn that, well, you're miserable). It would be hard for me to say there was overt homophobia coming from the PC in this election, although since leaving Talossa a few stray emails have come my way indicating some petty and immature homophobic comments leveled at me by the PC's PM candidate. So I wouldn't say there was no homophobia coming from the PC, but it wasn't anything that really "got to" me. Oddly enough, Ben's co-conspirator Ián Metáirâ had warned me of Ben's own homophobia on my acceptance as a citizen. His advice to me then was never to make an issue of my sexual orientation, or I would see Ben use that against me as Ben had little "tolerance" for gay men. Ironical, given that this advice came to me from an "out" gay man!

SC: What is your stance on "pocket votes"? Do you accept the proposition that there is a constituency of Talossan citizens, mainly those without Internet access, who take no part or indeed interest in Talossan politics, but who routinely cast a PC vote just on Ben Madison's say-so? If so, do you think this is necessarily a bad thing? Why?

DW: Yes, I believe there are "pocket



A PFPT election ad

votes" cast by Talossans who, while citizens, have little or no daily contact with the Kingdom. Three in particular (Ben's father and sister, and his friend Jean Williams) by Ben's own candid admission to me were really out of touch and knew little of what was going on. He told me this in the context of my conducting the PM's poll on my becoming Prime Minister, telling me not to expect any kind of response from them because they had no idea what was happening in Talossa. There is a foul stink to this. Among Ben's many hats, he is Deputy Secretary of State, and thus an elections official. It is my understanding that Ben himself "delivers" the votes from these three individuals to the SoS for compilation. This conflict of interest hardly holds Ben above suspicion. The existence of suspicion about these voters taints the electoral process with prospective voter fraud. It is inconsistent with democratic values.

SC: Do you still believe the Peace and Freedom Party has a chance of winning power in the current election, even with pocket votes and the lack of a secret ballot? If so, do you think they will be able to accomplish much in the face of a hostile Upper House and King?

DW: No. As I mentioned before, this election is a scene being replayed from Talossan history. Even if the PFPT could garner the votes to carry the Cosa, they could not "win." They would be blocked at every opportunity by the Senats, and by the Uppermost Cort. Furthermore, those Talossans who voted PFPT would be harangued as traitors by Ben at every opportunity. No party can win and be effective unless it is Ben's party, by definition.

SC: Do you even care?

DW: At this point, no, I don't care. I met some very fine folks through Talossa, and

I hope I'll be able to maintain those few friendships on levels which don't involve Talossa. But immediately after quitting Talossa, I deleted all my Talossa-related browser bookmarks, all my Talossan email addresses and phone directory, all my own Talossan web site materials, and any correspondence I had. I then took all printed Talossan materials out to the back yard and had a nice ritual cleansing bonfire. Since then, I've been quite happily engaged in other pursuits. You know, sometimes you pursue a hobby only to find out it's not at all what you thought it would be. Talossa was one such pursuit. I don't look back.

SC: How do you react to the following quote from a former PFPT member? "[Dan] does seem to be quitting because he can't get his way (or feels he can't) despite the fact that most Talossans apparently agree with and support him. Is that any better than Ben's trying to get his own way all the time? I don't know. Yes, Ben's political tactics may be sleazy, but how could so many people have remained in Talossa for so long if Ben was truly, on a basic, personal level, such a scumbag?"

DW: Well, I think the answer to that is obvious. It depends on your tolerance for Ben's intervention and manipulation. I couldn't stand his hypocrisy. I never wanted "power" in Talossa. My reasons for becoming a Talossan were cultural, and I accepted the PM position reluctantly. Ironically, Ben and Ián Metáirâ convinced me to take the position in January based on my ability to steer the PC back to the centrist political grounds in the kingdom prior to the upcoming (now current) elections. The first thing I did was to conduct a survey of all Talossans to discover that middle path. I'm a marketing guy, and I believe in making decisions based on good information. Eventually, 28 Talossans responded to the survey, from virtually all political affiliations. What I discovered was that Talossans really ARE middle of the road! So imagine my surprise as I tried to steer Ben's ship of state down that road, only to find him persistently pulling the ship to the xenophobic right. It wasn't consistent with people's wishes, nor was it consistent with what I had been asked to do! And that situation became intolerable.

continued on next page

Dan Wardlow Speaks (continued)

You know, Ben has tried to cast my disagreement with him as having to do entirely with the peace treaty I negotiated with the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia. My disagreement with him had nothing to do with that. That was a smokescreen. I had dared to confront Ben with his own internal inconsistencies about Talossan democracy, and that was a big no-no.

SC: Think back, if you can, to the original Exodus from Talossa of September 1997. What were your thoughts about the state of Talossa and the claims of the Exodees at that time? How have your experiences in government and at the sharp end of Madisonian tactics changed your view of those events?

DW: I had never had negative experiences with Evan, Ryan, or Miestrâ, the principal actors in the exodus. To the contrary, I'd found them in my limited contacts to be rational human beings and

generally nice guys. At the time, I thought "hmmm ... this looks like a histrionic set-up on Ben's part." Now I realize that Evan had pushed many of the same buttons on Ben which I have just pushed. I think Ben is xenophobic and vindictive, and Penguinia is the result.

SC: Does Talossa have a future? What changes do you think would be necessary to ensure that future?

DW: Yes, Talossa has a future in the sense that Albania had a future back in the 1960s. It has a petty dictator who pays lip service to democratic institutions and processes. You know, Albanian leader Enver Hoxha was often pictured encouraging the bountiful harvest by singing Albanian folk songs with the peasants in the fields. At the same time, Radio Tirana heaped virulent xenophobia and warped perspectives on the remainder of the world. And if you know anything about Talossan history, you know that Enver Hoxha was Ben's

role model in forming his kingdom back in the early 1980s. So that's my view of a Talossan future: happy peasants toiling in the cultural fields, singing Talossan folksongs under the intrusive watch of their maximum leader. If that's what you're into as a micronationalist, more power to you for becoming a Talossan citizen. But don't be deceived and join because you believe you can make any difference to politics or the course of the nation. As Jim Morrison might say "You cannot petition the lord with prayer."

SC: Does Dan Wardlow have a micronational future?

DW: Well, right now, I don't think he does have a future in micronations. I'm taking a nice time out and enjoying many other pursuits. San Francisco is an exciting place to live in the "real world!" And it's infinitely more fun than imaginary Talossa. And my husband is happy to have me back in the real world, too!■

Let A Hundred Flowers Bloom (continued)

citizens or prospectives, half of which rarely post on Wittenberg nowadays.

While men usually appreciate the company of women regardless of the Gender ratio, women are usually uncomfortable on a forum composed of almost exclusively an all male crowd, especially with the subject matters focus on male subjects.

Women also tend to interact differently, and in an all male crowd monopolizing the debates, might find it hard to find their niche.

But this is not limited to the ladies. Every person is interested in Talossa for different reasons. Once we have our constitution in place, and our various legislative bodies

elected, we should really try to see how we can open Talossa to various experiences. How we can help the creation of clubs or associations that could evolve in Talossa on the sideline, but still interact with the whole society.

The Science-Fiction and Whiskey club was a good idea. It would be easy to found such exclusive clubs on any subject, that some citizens could join and that has it's own activities, but still publishes a newsletter that anyone could subscribe to.

The idea is not to divide the county into various cliques, but rather to help people with common interest interact closer together, while still offering their findings to the

general public.

Maybe such clubs could be entitled to have their own Wittenberg forum, which any citizens (or Friend) could visit and post into, even if they are not a member of the club.

I realize these ideas are contrary to past beliefs regarding forums in Talossa, which proposed the use of a single forum, to prevent "splinter groups". But as we have seen with the Constitutional Convention and the Mitchell Building, additional forums in Wittenberg can improve communications in specific subjects, while still allowing a single search applet for all forums, a single login, and universal access for all citizens.■

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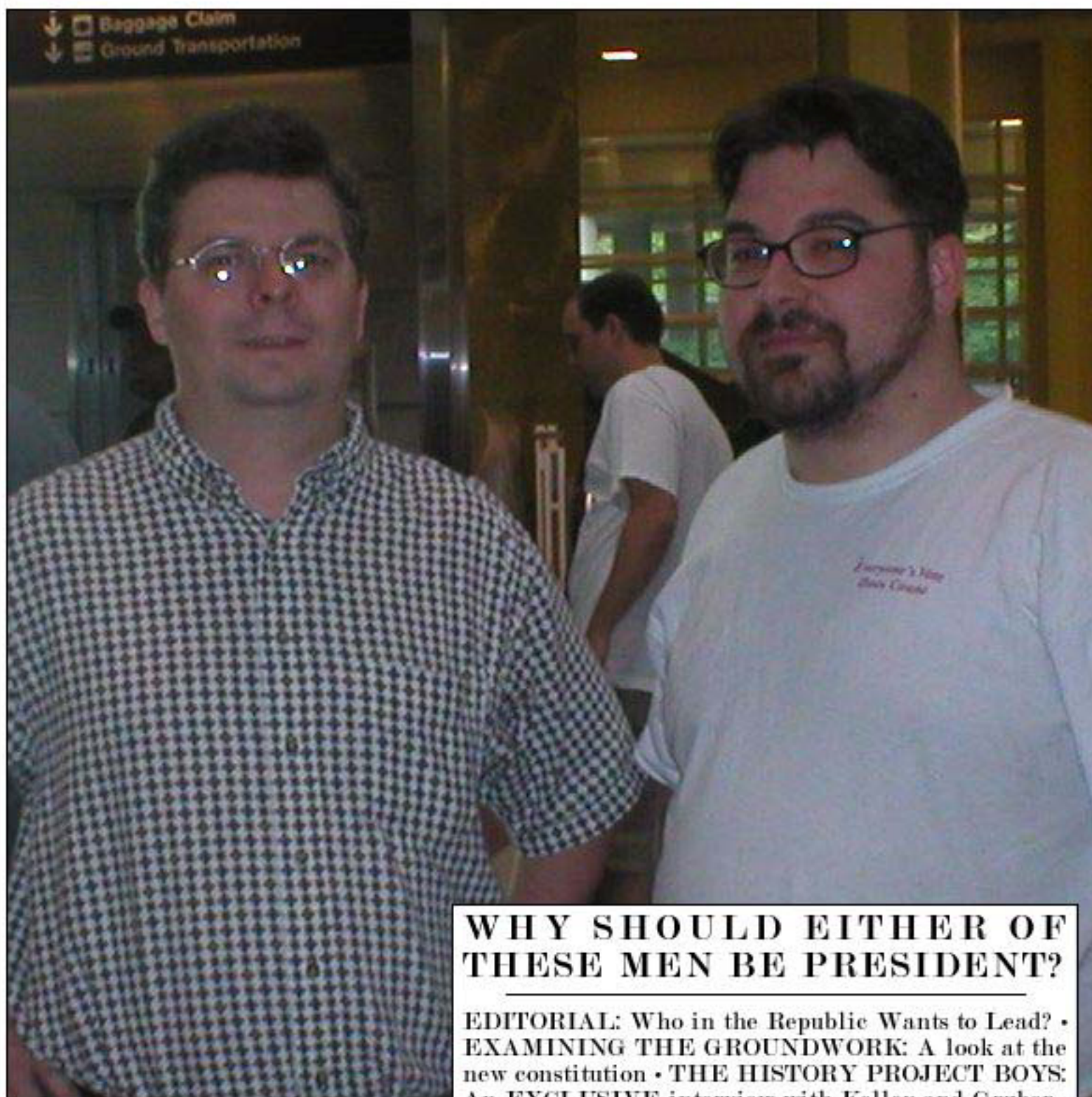
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TALOSSA'S PREMIER NEWS-MAGAZINE

QATORITRINS



WHY SHOULD EITHER OF THESE MEN BE PRESIDENT?

EDITORIAL: Who in the Republic Wants to Lead? • EXAMINING THE GROUNDWORK: A look at the new constitution • THE HISTORY PROJECT BOYS: An EXCLUSIVE interview with Kelley and Gruber • ALSO: New Editorial Cartoonist!

Volume 1, No. 8

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Wanting to lead

Is multiparty democracy in danger in the Talossan Republic? This question may seem strange. Are we not days away from endorsing a super-democratic constitution, built on the lessons of the tyranny we all suffered before the Revolution? Don't we have a thriving, partisan culture, with three political parties already advertising and perhaps more to come?

Let's remember why the Kingdom was **not** democratic. I was personally attracted by its promises of "free-wheeling multiparty democracy". And certainly, several parties contested elections. Of course, the same could be said of the old East Germany, and even today of near-fascist countries such as Zimbabwe or Singapore.

What opposition parties there were often weren't oppositionists at all – they supported the King and his government, and were mainly propped up to keep an appearance of democracy. If a real opposition party looked like gaining any real support, the King would make life unpleasant for everyone until his opponents quit the country out of boredom and disgust.

So it's not enough to simply have different parties running in elections. *We must have alternative leaderships* if elections are to mean anything. If, no matter who gets the votes, much the same people are going to be running things – or, different people might be running things, but according to the same principles – then you could be excused for being politically apathetic. Look at American presidential elections.

We don't have a real multi-party democracy in the Republic yet, for two reasons. One, there's no real ideological debates on Talossan issues. Certainly the Guelphs and the PSD can argue over "real-world" politics until the day Ben apologises – and the Peculiarists will be there to tell us not to take things too seriously. But there's no *Talossan issues*. Everyone agrees that we should have limited contact with serious micronations. Everyone seems to like the idea of secret-ballot referendums on new citizens. No-one is proposing major amendments to the Constitution.

Right now, Talossan elections look like being all about minor issues of personality – whether Pope or Cavéir gets to wear the ceremonial hat (or whatever the President wears). This is democracy – but it's not multiparty democracy. It's more like the factions within a single party. That's understandable, in the early days of the Republic when we are still finding our feet as a nation.

Secondly, and worse, even this "multi-personality democracy" is threatened by the fact that there's not even a great choice of personalities. Look at that "table of intentions" which cxhn. Furxhéir keeps publishing in *Seifetziueascâ*. There are very few people who feel they have the time or energy to take on leading roles in the Republic. Understandably – many of us have highly interesting real lives.

But we need citizens who want to lead the Republic, if our elections are to be anything but boring "musical chairs" exercises. And if more citizens don't feel they have the time or energy to lead, we have to ask what we can do to change that. Possible questions could be – how much work does a leader of the Republic have to do? And is our political culture something in which the average citizen feels comfortable getting involved? ■



Miestrâ Schivâ "The Republic's Most Articulate Spokeswhatever"

tivicinats pēr mîntenençar 'n aparainçû dal democraçû. Schi 'n contrapharti vrâts sembleva gagñhar del supôrt vrâts, el Regeu faceva malpruvadâ la vidâ pēr dtoc txuscâ sieu contréirs cebevent la nazium à c'hauça dal enuxhitâ és ôdiôsità.

Aghôrc non sufiça simplamînt tirê dels partis underschidlêc'hs qî cuntestent dals eleziuns. *Noi fossent tirê dels duceât xen alternatiûs*, pēr qê las eleziuns tischent inen proposizun. Schi, qievri gagñarhent las votaziuns, els misméux xhînts predicarhent – eda, xhînts underschidlêc'hs pût-estâre predicarhent, mäs pēr els mismâs principâis – aghôrc si pût estarê escusat pēr estarê politicâlmînt apatgétic. Videtz las eleziuns pēr el presedînt dels Estats Viênsicats.

Non ja détxâ 'n democraçû pluralistâ vrâts din el República, pēr douâ cauças. Pirméis, non ja dals ráisnâs ideoloxháis vrâtsilor ôvêr las iðûns Talossâes. Pêr certân, els Guelphen és els Pésedistâns pût ráisnar ôvêr els politici dal "mundeu vrâts" txuscâ la ziuâ quând Ben apoloxhara – és els Peculiaristâns se trovarhent pēr zirarê à nhoi non se tro preocupar.

Mäs non ja dals iðûns Talossâes. Tocť agreant qê noi fossent tirê del contâctis limitesçû cûn dals naziumetâs seriösen. Tocť semblent amar la idéâ dels referendûms scrutins-secrêts ôvêr citaxhiêns nouveux. Nevien propoça dels amendamâintschen grûlts àl Constituziun.

Strax, las eleziuns Talossâes semblent êstarê ôvêr dals iðûns pic'hotschen dal pèrsonalitâ – siat Pope eda Cavéir deserva apoartar el capéu maravêtxâl (eda qêtevri apoartarha el Prüm Citaxhiên). C'è la democraçû – mäs non c'è la democraçû pluralistâ. C'è cumprencavâl, dîn las ziuâs frûs dal República, quând noi adûc trovent ár peds come 'n nazium.

Douâlaiset, és piôr, mismâ aceasta "democraçû plûrs-individuâl" isch tgreatenzadâ pēr el fâts qê non ja mismâ 'n çoiçéu grûlt dels individuâis. Risguardetz acest "tableu dals intenziuns" qêt pública cxhn. Furxhéir dîn *Seifetziueascâ*. Ja tréi pocs dels xhînts qî sentient qê os tiennet el tîmp eda el ênerxhi pēr prîndar dals prümâs roslâs dîn la República. Cumprencavâlmînt – plûrs da nhoi tiennent dals vidâs vrâtsilor tréi întzereçînds.

Mäs noi fossent tirê dels citaxhiêns qî volent dûciar la República, pēr qê ár eleziuns non serent exerciçeux enuxhînds da "cadéirâs musicâis". És schi pû dels citaxhiêns non sentient qê tiennent el tîmp eda el ênerxhi dûciar, noi fossent zemandar qêt noi possent façarê cambiar acest. Dals queziuns poûcivâis – çâoben del travâl fost façarê 'n dûceu dal República? És ár culturâ politicâl, ç'è qualse'cosâ en qêt el citaxhiên averâtx solida pûstavirê? ■

Vëlarê dûciar

¿La democraçû pluralistâ, c'è riscadâ dîn la República? Aceastâ queziun pût-estarê sembla strôinschâ. ¿Non sînt-non dals ziuâs ut da endorçar 'n constituziun super-democrâtic, fraicadâ sûr las leçûns dal türônteriâ qê noi toct tiennent sofriats anáintsch el Revoluziun? ¿Non tiennent-noi 'n culturâ partizân tgrivînd, cûn tres partis politicâis détxâ avertiçînds és pût-estarê pû vânds?

Qê noi sovenênçarhent pêrqêt el Regipâts *non* fût democrâtic. Eu perziunâlmînt fût atractadâ pēr sieu promiçûns dal "democraçû pluralistâ gadalisâ". És pēr certân, severâis partis tiennent cuntestats las eleziuns. Da c'horsicâ, si pût zirarê el mismeu ôvêr el vell Tzaratûtsch del Est, és mismâ oxhi dels pâtsilor squasi-fascistâns tál qê Zimbabwe és Singapurâ.

Quâis contraphartis hi füvent, sovînt non füvent contraphartis vrâtsilor da toct; os sostigñhovent el Regeu és sieu governamâintsch, és ordvârt füvent

PSD declares "popular front"

The first legislative election campaign in the Republic is kicking off with a Social Democrat (PSD) call for a "Popular Front" list of candidates.

Under the new draft electoral legislation, each party which wishes to run for Chamber of Deputies seats must nominate a list of candidates upfront - rather than assigning seats after the election, as was the tradition in the Kingdom.

The PSD have nominated party secretary Miestrâ Schivâ as their candidate for *Seneschâl* (Prime Minister). Schivâ has issued a call for all those who support her candidacy, and the basic manifesto reproduced to the right, to stand for the Chamber of Deputies as part of a "Popular Front" list.

"I know that many Talossans are edgy about getting involved in party politics," said Schivâ, "perhaps mainly because of the unpleasant history of abuse and personality destruction that goes with Talossan politics. But the *Frînt Populâr* is a new and exciting way for ordinary Talossans to get involved in politics.

A fortnight away from a Constitution

As *Qator Itrîns* went to press, the whole nation of Talossa were voting in a referendum to ratify the new permanent Constitution of the Republic.

After nine months of fractious and dilatory debate, the Draft Constitution was finally approved by the five-member Constitutional Committee on March 13th of this month. Speaking for the committee, its chair Miestrâ Schivâ thanked "all Talossans who participated in this long, strange trip. When I took my seat on the Committee, nine months ago, I had no idea it would take so long to get here. But here we are. And I truly think this is the kind of constitution we can all be proud of."

The shape of the document kept twisting and turning right up until the last possible minute. Just before final ratification, a vote was passed to abolish the *Senäts* (the upper house of Parliament, restricted to experienced citizens and representing the provinces). Then, a week later, another vote decided to restore the

"There's no party discipline or meetings - support me for Prime Minister and support the basic manifesto, and apart from that you can do what you like once elected."

The first two places on the list will be taken by Schivâ and her party-mate Martî-Páir Furxhéir. Schivâ says that she wants "at least three more candidates, although probably not all of them will be elected".

Also up and running is the Peculiarist MRP party, whose manifesto is also reprinted in this issue. D. N. Vercáriâ's party looks like winning at least one and possibly two seats, and is currently the best organised party outside the Popular Front. The Guelph Party of National Security Advisor and presidential candidate Michael Pope, meanwhile, has been slow to gather support apart from that of its widely respected leader.

Join the Popular Front: email
heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz



Senäts - but only once the Republic has reached a population threshold of 35-40 citizens.

Schivâ admits to deliberately provoking some of the more controversial debates - "but not out of boredom. I felt that my job was to make sure that the Constitution was discussed as deeply and fundamentally as possible - so that no one had any right to grumble about anything later. So, if I did hear someone grumbling during the constitutional process, I would try to write their grumble up as an amendment to get a formal discussion and vote on it.

"That was the way the legislature worked in Penguinia, and how I hope that our new Chamber of Deputies

Popular Front Draft Manifesto

All Popular Front candidates pledge to support a government which will:

- establish friendly relationships with large, stable and serious micronations;
- make talossa.net the best, brightest and most welcoming webportal possible for the Republic;
- commission an Official Report into incorporating the Republic as a non-profit corporation, as the first step to being legally able to own our own web-presence and intellectual property.

All Popular Front candidates pledge support for the following legislation in the first Chamber of Deputies:

- an Immigration Act which will establish a secret-ballot referendum vote for all new citizens
- a Justice Act which will establish a "Circuit" (lower) Court. This Court will examine all cases except constitutional ones in the first instance so that the High Court becomes a court of appeal
- a National Webpace act which will vest responsibility for the content of Wittenberg and the official Republic websites in the Secretary of State;
- a Language Act to establish a Republican CÚG. This will make "teach yourself" material for the Talossan language more available, and work closely with all Talossan-speakers everywhere.

[lower house of Parliament] will work. I think the approach worked well - the "bicameral with delay" provisions form the perfect compromise between all shades of opinion."

"This is a basic law which we all helped create and about which we should all be fanatically proud," Schivâ adds. "I am half-considering proposing a law to the new Parlamînt requiring all Talossans to have a printed copy of the Constitution handy at all times."

With the Republic boasting twenty citizens after Ugo Truffelli's acceptance, the new constitution will need at least eleven "yes" votes to be ratified. The election ends April 14th. ■

LINK

The Final Draft Constitution:

<http://homepages.paradise.net.nz/daphlawl/talossa/constitution.pdf>

New constitution, new Talossa

The Republic of Talossa is on the verge of adopting its new constitution, replacing the temporary provisional constitution.

Such an act is always of historic importance, but in this particular case it is a definitive break from the history of the former Kingdom of Talossa.

If the citizens of a nation are its life, its constitution is its soul. Its moral compass. Its almost religious guidance. Drafting a constitution is preparing the future for better or for worse.

The constitution of the former Kingdom of Talossa had, if I may be blunt, a single objective: keeping Ben Madison in power. Layered through its text are loopholes or restrictions enabling a few individuals to keep a tight control of the nationette, provided they had the backing of the Monarch and his all powerful veto on their side.

We, of course, by simply transitioning from a Monarchy to a Republic changed that aspect by providing an elected President with severe restrictions and the lack of a veto. We also restricted to two consecutive mandates the tenure of a person as president, ensuring a transition every two years.

Just the method of selecting the Prime Minister always gave me the creeps. If a single party failed to obtain the majority, the King alone was able to elect a new one, based solely on HIS perception of which candidate could best succeed a vote of confidence. He used this power several years ago when he announced he would never appoint a TLP prime-minister, unless they alone obtained a majority - even if all of the Cosâ members backed the nomination.

In the Republic, we made sure this position is elected by the Chamber of Deputies, without any intrigues on the part of our President.

The vote of confidence is abolished, replaced by the ability for the chamber of deputies to replace him or her by a simple majority vote. At a first glance, we might think it is similar to a vote of confidence, but because such a motion requires to name a replacement, the randomness of a new election doesn't come into play. Also, if two parties decide to bring the prime-minister down, they need to negotiate who the replacement shall be.

But the Seneschâl isn't the only



MARTI-PÁIR FURXHÉIR shares his ideas on how to keep discussion flourishing in the Republic's online forums.

major change in the roles of officers of the Republic. The Corut Justices, Head of State and the Secretary of State may no longer sit in the government, ensuring that these will not be caught in a conflict of interest.

The role of the Secretary of State has also been severely restricted. Instead of being in charge of the whole legislative procedure, our Secretary of State is now mostly a director of Elections, with the management of the actual legislative process left into the hands of the elected president of each chamber (the Túisshac'h and Mençéi), decentralizing even more the powers of the once all-encompassing office.

The Director of Elections office will also be radically modified. Now, electoral regulations will be determined by law rather than by declaration of the Secretary of State. Elections will also occur at fixed dates, providing more stability for the most important actions of the population.

But even more importantly, from now on, every single decision performed by the whole population, whether it is an election or a referendum, will be performed via secret ballots.

These ballots will allow every citizen to cast their vote according to their

own conscience and values, rather than out of fear of offending the head of state and falling from the good graces of the founder of the nation.

Now, parties in the Chamber of Deputies election will also be required to submit *in advance*, their list of candidate deputies in order of preference. This will both allow for a clearer more predictable electoral outcome, but also for the creation of coalition lists rather than long term coalition parties.

The PC party of the former Kingdom should possibly never have existed. It contained members with opposite point of views who were both muted by the influence of the King. The Party had become the instrument of domination by the monarch, but because of the close ties established between the members, it was a party hard to divide, until the GCP and the MN left the party direction-less.

It quickly reorganized itself along a new party line, but it was clear that the party no longer had the life it once had. Ben Madison accused the PC of wanting to dominate the Nation's politics when ironically, he had always been the only PC member fighting to maintain the PC's majority. In fact, the PC became the only party not to offer it's own prime-minister candidate in the post-Ragsdale era!

Such huge coalition parties should never exist, but fortunately, our constitution provides for an easier and more stable method for helping a party obtain a majority : a coalition list.

Such lists exist in every proportional legislature: several distinct parties provide a single list of candidates during an election to unify the force of their voters. Such alliances, unlike pie-pot blobs like the PC, do not share a single membership base, but rather a diversified list of allies that may easily shift between each elections, preventing the creation of a massive party dominating the nationette over almost a decade.

But there is an even more important, possibly unnoticed aspect of our new constitution. In the former Kingdom of Talossa, the declaration of rights comes near the end of the constitution, almost unnoticed after the various rights and obligations of the government. In the Republic, the Declaration of Freedoms and Protections is in the Points of State near the beginning of the document, proving where our priorities are. ■

manifesto of the movement for republican peculiarism

What is Peculiarism?

Briefly put, it's nothing that should scare you away. Actually it's the Talossan way of life already: the pretense of being a nation located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, that seceded from the USA approximately 25 years ago. Maintaining a federation with a representative parliamentary system, while we're 20 people - without these peculiar assumptions we were just a group of friends who could easily govern themselves by means of direct democracy.

Peculiarists recognise the reality that surrounds the Talossan dream. Even more so, Peculiarists know that some fundamentals of the Republic of Talossa are fictitious. While from these fundamentals the reality of worldwide friendships emerges, friendships amongst people who are deeply rooted in the reality of their real lives.

Peculiarists say that getting involved in the cabals of the Republic of Talossa is not an escape from reality. By playing the slightly odd game of being Talossans, Talossans will create the distinctive culture of an international group of friends, a culture that may radiate into our real lives abroad. A distinctive culture that is based on the commonly shared ideals of democracy.

So what is it with democracy? Why not a Kingdom?

History, and last not but least, especially the long history of the nationette of Talossa, has taught us that democracy is the only way to maintain an atmosphere of dignity. Only if every, that is, truly every citizen of Talossa has exactly the same rights before the laws of Talossa, only then we shall

be able to develop a culture of freedom of thought and speech.

We, the Peculiarists, want to go further in this than the proposed constitution allows. Equal eligibility for all Talossans above the dandelion age is our rallying cry. Let there be no aristocracy, no meritocracy; let the people decide whom they want to represent them, nationally or internationally. Any Talossan should be a Talossan amongst Talossans, equal before the law, no matter when we joined the Republic of Talossa.

Peculiarists say: Let's be the most democratic nationette amongst all the nationettes, worldwide.

What is the Peculiarist stand on internationalism?

We want a multilingual, multicultural Talossa that attracts people from all over the world.

Intermicronationally, we think that Talossa should talk to all nationbuilding people who are interested in talking to us Talossans. That means open boards where people from Talossa and elsewhere can congregate. We're not afraid of the young ones who like to copy our great nationette. It is a honour to be a role model of so many people. We do not want to bark at "bugs".

We don't recommend a politic of mutual diplomatic recognition. If people are living their dreams, would it change anything if we don't recognize their dreams? Or would we vanish from the face of the Earth, if we are not recognized? Those who exist, exist.

Instead of official diplomacy, we recommend project-based intermicronational cooperation, like in intermicro newspapers, virtual galleries, and stuff like that, or charitable / political



MRP founder D. Nanöc'hfigheu Vercáriâ

declarations, or whatever comes in handy.

So what do you want to do for real?

We are for a democratisation of the Talossan fora - by "tax"-funding our boards, for example.

We shall struggle against "meritocracy" in the constitution - equal eligibility for all Talossans is our goal.

We want glasnost in immigration laws, and a clear separation of powers - keep the Courts out of this.

Will you cooperate with other political parties?

Of course. We hope that all political groups of Talossa will be represented in the Parliament. We think that all believers in democracy should be able to cooperate. Depending on the results of the coming elections, we can imagine a lot of political settings, from a M.R.P. government through various coalitions through tolerating a minority government through varying majorities to opposition.

The M.R.P. will do what the electors expect us to do.

signed,
Bill Cooper
Andrew Lowry
D. N. Vercáriâ

The history men

Qator Itrins editor Miestrâ Schivâ interviewed Chris Gruber (CCG) and Jonathan Kelley (JKK), the founders of Dîn Sieu Propreux Mocts, the Talossan History Project (<http://www.courteousminer.com/psd/index.php?cat=7>)

MS: Tell the readers of Qator Itrins why you two decided to start the Talossan History Project.

JKK: I think it was your idea first, Chris, so why don't you start.

CCG: Was it mine?

JKK: I think so.

CCG: Well... I seem to recall that we were online, discussing what we could do to attract more prospectives. And we had, about the same time, mentioned that [Martî-Páir Furxhéir]'s marketing ideas were not what would work best.

MS: What marketing ideas would those be?

CCG: He's been pushing this idea of Google advertising, mostly. By weighing the Google searches in our favour, he reasons, we'll attract more people. But my question has always been the same: Who the hell cares? He says that someone might put "micronation" in the search and come up with us. And I say, who's to say that will attract prospectives?

MS: Attracting people to the Republic is one thing. Keeping them around once they've had a quick look is another.

CCG: Exactly. What attracted us? It wasn't advertising; it was the culture, the people... those are the things that make us want to participate in the first place.

JKK: There was another factor. You, Miestra, and you, Chrischtovhal, had both ragged on me for not being more involved in public affairs. And I saw that this was a chance to do something I would enjoy and perhaps do okay at.

CCG: Right.

MS: Perhaps you might like to tell

our readers, just briefly, JKK, why it is that you've chosen to stay out of electoral politics.

CCG: Yes, do tell!

JKK: I don't feel it's my forté for a wide variety of different reasons. I may change my mind in the future. But the bottom line is that I come to Talossa for fun. When politics looks like fun to me, I'll be more involved.

CCG: Bah! Excuses!

JKK: I feel like we're Bob and Doug McKenzie, eh.

CCG: Take off, ya hoser.

MS: JKK has a point. Talossa can be intimidating if it just looks like a "political simulation". We need Talossans who're keen to build the Republic in its other aspects.

CCG: Which is why we were talking about a better approach to attracting people to the Republic.

JKK: Yes, that was the core of our discussion. I bitched that we weren't doing enough. You sensibly asked if I had any actual ideas to offer. I liked one of yours.

MS: Anyway, if I can get some comment from you, Chris, on the subject of whether you think that the Talossan tradition, up until this point, has been a bit too "politics heavy". By politics I mean internal Talossan politics, elections, parties and laws, rather than discussions of macronational politics - which I think we all know can easily get overdone.

CCG: I felt that what we should do is have some sort of project where prospectives can see that it's not a Kingdom-style monoculture run by a cultural dictator. Talossa is poltiics-heavy, to be sure, and may always be. But it's so much



Christopher C. Gruber

more. And we hope that we can make sure the Republic doesn't seem to be politics-ONLY, as it were.

MS: So, you have a bunch of interviews being temporarily stored in the Vôte del Popúl blog. How far does this project go? Are you planning to continue to interview every Talossan? Are there any plans to turn this into a permanent publication of any kind?

CCG: No real plans for a publication, but that's because of him, not me. I suggested making this into a book, and I still may try to pressure him into it.

JKK: Ultimately I'd like to see it relocated to the Republic's website. I plan to interview a wide variety of folks, including those former citizens and Kingdom citizens who would like to tell their stories. We cannot possibly record history in a complete manner unless we get many perspectives.

CCG: I'd like to set it up in two forms: One, as a web-log style, like it has now, on Talossa dot com (TDC), and one, as a book, so in case one owuld like to download it, print it out, and read it on a tram. Perhaps we'd even work on it being an ongoing project, adding voices to teh mix. More interviews covering more subjects. So far, most of these

travischtâ

stick to the Revolution.

MS: Have either of you learnt anything that's surprised you in the interviews so far, or caused you to re-evaluate what you thought you knew about Talossan history?

JKK: I haven't gotten too many new historical tidbits, but I have seen a much broader side of the persons I've interviewed. Their own views of Talossan history have certainly impacted my own.

CCG: I've been surprised mostly that this series is so damned good. It's richer and more addictive than I'd ever imagined.

MS: Of course, collecting primary source data is only one side of the historian's craft - analysing that data, finding trends and themes in it, is also important. How do you think this data could be used by future historians - either Talossans, or outsiders interested in the phenomenon of micronations, or in small-group politics or Internet communities in general?

CCG: I think it's mostly going to decimate the original Ar Pats model. One man's view is no longer an acceptable way to record history. And I think we're going to see that this interview series is what that idea is all about. That's why we've decided to name it something proper; In Their Own Words.

JKK: Yes. Because it is dangerous to take too macro a view of history. For example, it's a common misconception that populations have babies. They don't. WOMEN have babies. The view of the person who was there, who will remember little details that he or she may think trivial, may be a gold mine for future students and enthusiasts. Our goal is to capture those recollections before they fade—and in their own words, as the title goes, not through a prism that filters out what it doesn't want to hear.

MS: History from below, in other words. As a Marxist I highly approve. (laughs)

CCG: The overall texture of our history isn't as simple as it seems.

MS: Which brings me on to a related question, concerning how the History project fits into wider Talossan culture. Certain commentators have warned



Jonathan K. Kelley

recently that the Republic risks becoming a one-party state “by default” - that one group of people seem to have the energy and enthusiasm to run things, and there isn't a real competition either for people to lead or ideologies to lead by. Do you think the Talossan conversation is in danger of becoming monophonic?

JKK: I do, to a degree. But the only remedy for that is to build interest on the broadest possible level. All Talossans seem to have one thing in common: they are readers. So let's give them something pertinent to read, to help them feel ownership in their community.

CCG: I think that's oversimplifying a short-term condition. It points back to a remark I made in the interview that I held: open-source society. The Republic isn't a one-man creation; it's an open-source society, a society in which any and all interested parties can participate and help shape the Republic. That's why saying “one-party state by default” is so simplistic. It seems like that right now, but only because the loudest voices are making it seem so. More voices means more variation, and therefore, a richer culture.

MS: I would also say that one of the limits of the open-source approach is that you can't change the past - at least, unless you're a Stalin-style dictator. In other words, our only constraint is Talossan history, although we can transcend that even if we can't delete it.

interview

CCG: Exactly. Do the mature thing: accept your past and deal with it.

JKK: This is a key rule of the Project. We will redact no one's words. If embarrassing facts come out, let them stand in the light. The only editing that happens on anyone's words are spelling and syntax checks, never altering substance. In my view it is a great sin to make an assault on history by falsifying it. What we get at a given time is one person's views, and recollections. They can err—but they will be reported as they said it.

CCG: I agree for the most part. A mild correction of factual information could be done in a tactful manner, after the interview. For example, if one were to say “All through June, such-and-such occurred,” when it's evident that such-and-such occurred in December.

MS: Our History defines us. It is the substance of our community. If we try to deny our history, to go all “year Zero” like we did in Penguinia, we will drift aimlessly. If one man defines what our history is, we will simply be the creation of one man. History must be objective, and therefore polyphonic.

CCG: Nice. (grins)

MS: Anyway, June 1 2005 will be our first Independence Day. Would you both like to give us your slightly drunken visions of how the Republic should look by 1 June 2006 - two years of Our Freedom Restored, as the Penguinians used to say?

JKK: I'm only two sips into my second beer. But with that said, I think the way it should look is a thriving multiparty democracy. We should be taking on the issues that affect our future. And if we have the sense the gods gave a goose, we'll do so civilly without blowing our stacks.

CCG: We're not perfect, and we've never claimed to be, but we're well on our way to something very, very special. By 2006, we'll be in full swing, I'd bet. We'll have done that very thing we set out to do: create and nurture a free, open society sans Madison.

MS: What do you think the biggest problem we face on our way there is?

continued on next page

The history men (continued)

CCG: Self-destructive behaviour. If we become too much of a Ben-hater's society or become too much of an infighting entity, then we'll doom ourselves. But all evidence points to the contrary. And, for that, I am supremely grateful.

JKK: I think we face an ongoing challenge: to define ourselves as ourselves, rather than as Non-Ben. Our political process should be a fine step in that direction. I hope the Project will be another. Many of us still have friends and cordial contacts in the Kingdom, and they watch us carefully. Our doors need to remain open, our welcome warm, just in case any of them ever prefer our vision. Our task is to build that vision into something people would want to join in.

CCG: Build a firm foundation and everything else is gravy.

MS: *One last, slightly egotistical question: what role do you see this newsmagazine, QI, playing in the future of the Republic?*

JKK: An essential one. The Project has no desire to supplant *QI*, but rather to supplement it. We can work together. The more Talossan media we have, the better for all. *QI* provides Talossan-language material, of which there is no great surplus. It speaks to past and present. I hope it will continue to attract quality content.

CCG: *QI* is a centrepiece, to be sure. Our project and *QI* have similar aims, but *QI* is more about current events and reflection on them, whereas the Project is more about looking at our history from various subjective viewpoints and compiling them to create a complete picture. *QI* keeps us excited about today. *QI* is fantastic for that sort of thing. (laughs)

JKK: It's also worth pointing out that Marti-Páir's regular updates also play a valuable role. I fervently hope he keeps it up. I look forward to both publications.

CCG: As do I. More!

JKK: That's not all the Talossan media that's on the horizon, either. I worked with Gödafríeu on the editing

of his history of the origins of the Republic. In doing that, I helped discharge a duty, but I also felt like a participant in historical preservation. That process may have helped incline me down the path Chris and I have devised. I'm really looking forward to the release.

CCG: Which reminds me, I have to get cracking on more of *Dare Something Worthy!* ■

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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QATOR ITRÏNS

“...it's my opinion that by now the well of former Talossans or near-Talossans will run dry...”

-- D N Vercáriâ

“I want to see this Republic self-sufficient as regards how we deal with one another.”

-- Miestrâ Schivâ

ELEZIUN AUGHT-FIVE!

ELEZIUN SPECIAL: The Seneschál Debate; Miestrâ Schivâ and D N Vercáriâ both speak their pieces • MAKING VOICES HEARD: M-P Furxhéir on Talossan electoral systems. • ALSO: A Brand-New Deet Cartoon!

Vote Popular Front

I seriously debated not issuing a May *Qator Itrîns*. I am, as I'm sure you've been reminded, a candidate in the (currently ongoing) Chamber of Deputies elections, and I was somewhat reluctant to put out an issue of the Republic's foremost magazine which could be accused of blatant electioneering.

However, on second thought I realised that there's nothing wrong with *blatant* electioneering. Only electioneering which pretends to be objective. The worst crime for any political activist is hypocrisy – and I am determined not to merit such an accusation.

So, in this editorial, I clearly and honestly solicit your votes – for myself, and for the party for which I stand. As do my esteemed Peculiarist opponents, in this same issue. The Guelphs seem much quieter, for some reason.

Anyway. You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you think that I've done enough to earn a shot at being Séneschal – and that Chris Gruber should continue in the role which has been (de facto) his for the last six months.

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you consider the idea of myself and Chris Gruber working as a team one of the most amusing ironies in Talossan history. (In a good Social Democratic historical parallel, Lenin and Trotsky were also bitter enemies almost up to *their* revolution.)

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you don't think our brand new constitution needs tinkering with just yet.

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you want a government which includes the best and brightest of our citizens, not restricted to party loyalists.

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you want more women involved in Talossan politics and government – and a Talossa with less of a bias towards first-language English speakers.

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you support Talossan traditions, and find the idea of a Peculiarist government a bit too “interesting” a prospect.

You should vote PSD/Popular Front if you are in the Talossan mainstream, rather than on the far-right bank where our esteemed Guelph opponents stand.

And you should definitely vote PSD/Popular Front if you want a government which can publish its propaganda in our rich, glorious national language.



Miestrâ Schivâ
PSD/Popular Front candidate
for Seneschâl dal Repùblicâ

Votetz Frînt Populâr

Téu seriösmînt considerat non pùblicar ‘n *Qator Itrîns* da Mai. Eu sînt, come pèr certân voi tenetz remîndats, ‘n candidâts dîn la eleziun (corentmînt pasînd) pèr la Camerâ dels Deputâts, és eu fût squasi niac’hatnâ pùblicar ‘n ißûtâ dal xhurnâl praiminînd dal Repùblicâ, qî fost estarê fixhidadâ da campagñar haváirmînt pèr votatziuns.

Com’evri, recoxhitînd, téu realîzat qê non si tent cupâ campagñar haváirmînt pèr votatziuns. Solamînt campagñar praitençînd estarê objectiveu. La crimâ la pû piôr, c’è la simulaziun – és eu sînt rixatorxheu non deservar ‘n tâl acuçaziun.

Aglhôrc, dîn acest editoriâl, eu racoltéu liquideu és tgonestamînt

voschtri votatziuns – pèr me, és pèr el partî pèr qêt eu sînt candidâts. Come façent va contréirs estimats Pecúliaristâns, dîn aceastâ ißûtâ mismâ. Els Guelpheux semblent muitamînt pû sotvosvîeux, pèr qualsevól razîun.

Zespitzi toct. Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr schi voi pensetz qê téu facescû aîéi earnar la îportunitâ estarê Seneschâl – és qê Chirischtôvâl Cavéir fost continuar dîn la roslâ qî fût (da fâts) la tSia dîrânt las sex mesen dirnalaiset.

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr schi voi consideretz l’idéâ da mhe és Chirischtôvâl Cavéir, êrbhêtînd come ‘n esqipâ, viêns dal ironîas pû amusînd dîn la tgistôriâ Talossân. (Dîn ‘n paralél ben dal tgistôriâ social-democrâtic, Lenin és Trotsky fûvent ocsâ enemici aspreux prescâ txuscâ *sieu* revolucion.)

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr, schi voi non pensetz qê ár constituziun novâ non fost estarê cufabricadâ.

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr, schi voi vèletz ‘n governamáintsch qî includa els pû bens és els pû britxînds da ár citaxhiêns, non solamînt dels sostiréirs del partî governînd.

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr, schi voi vèletz qê pû dals frúlor zevienarhent pustavânds dîn els politici és governamáintsch Talossân – és ‘n Talossa cûn mîus da praixhúdiçâ contrâ acestilor qî non parlent Angleascâ come glhetg natâl.

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr schi voi sostenetz las tradiziuns Talossaés, és consideretz l’idéâ d’iens governamáintsch Pecúliaristâ ‘n pô trô «întzereçînd».

Voi fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr schi voi estetz dîn el ruicâl magñh da Talossa, propî qê sîr la costâ luégñh-drept, dove sînt ár contréirs estimats Guelpheux.

Ês voi sigûrmînt fossent votar PSD/Frînt Populâr schi voi vèletz ‘n governamáintsch qî pût publicar sieu propagandâ dîn ár glhetg naziunâl, ricieu és gloriös.

rebuttal!

dal contréir!

A New Vision for the Republic?

With the adoption of the constitution the Talossan Republic has reached a turning point in her history. The revolutionary phase after the split from the Kingdom is over now, the legal fundamentals for further legislation are written down and accepted by a near-100 %- vote in a referendum. We're about to elect our first Chamber of Deputies, which hopefully will find answers to all questions that have been left open soon. And we'll elect the first President of the Republic within a few weeks - well, I'm telling you nothing new by saying this, even though I'm so amazed by what we have already achieved that I feel like enumerating all our achievements that deserve to be praised.

But now that we all know where we've been coming from, it might be more interesting to ask where we shall be going in a foreseeable future. Looking at our list of citizens and at the group of Friends of the Republic who are frequently seen at Wittenberg, I guess that we've reached all people who may have been wanting to join the Republic this way or the other, as a citizen or as a friend. There still may be a small group of former Talossans, "Kingdomites" or "near-Talossans" (Penguineans, Polyphonians) who may want to join the Republic sooner or later, but let's face it, this well is running dry.

Sooner or later we shall have to address the issue of attracting people who never heard about Talossa before, because immigration will become crucial for the well-being of our nationette. Let me tell you why. One part of the problem are Talossa's imbalanced population statistics, viz., the statistical preponderance of male citizens. We shall not overcome this by the average means of clueless politicians, i.e., by calling for a commission, or by appointing ministers. And the problem may be intertwined

with another big issue, the dominance of a political overhead over a cultural, scientific, gardening, traveling, beaux-arts and thus somehow down-to-ground Talossa.

For instance, we talked about a lot of projects such as a University of Talossa; there is a press that is always endangered by running short of contributions and coworkers, let alone that amable endeavours such as Radio Free Talossa are living on the ephemeral outbursts of creativity of their founders, always endangered by the inevitable necessities and calls of the "real life" beyond Talossa, our pretty hobby horse. At least the University of Talossa deserved to be institutionalised, thus the institution could support outstanding research such as the history project of J. Kelley and C. Cavéir. The TalossaPedia project should be maintained by someone whose job could be a "civilian" or universitarian equivalent to the job of the Secretary of State.

So what to do, if we don't have the manpower to put all of these projects on the right tracks? The answer might be: Immigration politics that will encourage proactive citizens to join Talossa. Advertisement that doesn't stress Talossa's addiction to politics. For example, a new homepage that does not talk about the old quarrels about the founder of Talossa anymore; we might wish to have a homepage that is talking about Talossan opportunities instead of this slightly worn-out complaint about the "gross misconduct" of the infamous King Robert de Rouergue. We might even offer some high "civilian" jobs to Friends of the Republic - for instance, what would be wrong with a Tric'hard F. or a Harold T. being appointed the Dean of the University of Talossa (with all due caution, of course - real universities may react paranoid when reading about fake academic titles)?



D.N. Vercáriâ, Seneschál candidate of the Movement for Republican Peculiarism (MRP)

Back to the issue of not finding enough women who would like to participate in the game of Talossa, cultural diversity might be a way to make Talossa more female-friendly. You may laugh at me now when I'm saying that I've found that the women that I know or knew aren't less interested in politics or rock music or cars or whatever than I - they're just seldom getting totally obsessed about these or similar topics at parties. Not in the way that men can waste away an entire evening and the whole following night, just feeling alright when repeating their old well-known arguments over and over again, as long as there is enough beer to keep the talk going. Or something...

Looking forward, the ship of the Republic should set sails now for the open seas, to sail away from the old quarrels with the Kingdom. What we need is a fresh breeze and new horizons. What we need is a lot of creativity, now that we have reached a turning point in our history. Being an old micronation that is looking back at 25 years of a sometimes exhilarating, always exciting history with loads of traditions will not be enough to keep us from going under.

What we need is immigration, what we need is some kind of a perpetual cultural revolution, lest we'll never get stuck in the concrete of our past.

Long live the Republic.

The Seneschál debate

*The following debate took place live on Saturday evening Talossan standard time, May 7 2005/xxviii between Popular Front candidate for Prime Minister **Miestrâ Schivâ** (MS) and her Peculiarist opponent **D. N. Vercáriâ** (DNV). **Chirischtôvál Cavéir** (CCG) was the moderator. This transcript is edited only to correct obvious errors and to include interesting after-interview comments.*

CCG: I would like to officially thank each of you, our esteemed candidates for Parlamînt, for attending this debate.

MS: And thank you, esteemed Dean, for volunteering as moderator.

DNV: You're welcome.

CCG: Avec plaisir. Would you please introduce yourselves, full names and all, starting with the MRP candidate?

DNV: Dieter N. Vercaria. Hello!

CCG: Thank you. And Ms Schivâ?

MS: Miestrâ Schivâ, redactéir da *Qator Itrîns*. Buna ziuâ als toct i Talossâes.

CCG: I thank you both. For the first round, I'd like to do a simple Question and Answer period. There will be an opportunity for each of you to respond, but only at my prompting. Okay?

MS: Agreed.

DNV: Get on with it.

CCG: First question is for Mr Vercáriâ. What is your general vision for the Republic as a future member of Parlamînt?

DNV: I hope that we'll now enter a phase of our history, which is about looking forward to the future, instead of looking back at the times of a certain dictatorship.

CCG: Would you care to elaborate?

DNV: Well, the days of the Talossan Revolution are over, as well as the passing phase of provisionality.

CCG: Ms Schivâ, would you care to respond.

MS: The fact is that what makes the Talossan Republic unique is our history - twenty-six years of it. And twenty-five of those were spent, as my esteemed opponent put it, under "a certain dictatorship". I totally agree that we shouldn't continue to experience "phantom pain" from that unnecessary limb - the monarchy - which was hacked off our constitution. But we are shaped by our history - and that's what makes us Talossan.

DNV: As you may read in the next QI, it's my opinion that by now the well of former Talossans or near-Talossans will run dry, for instance, so it will become crucial to do something for more immigration

CCG: Mr Vercáriâ, please wait for

your prompt.

MS: I also point out that occasionally our "history" tries to reach out and grab us - note "a certain dictator" trying to stop us using Talossan intellectual property. It's absolutely true we shouldn't be focussing on this. But while we look resolutely forward, we must always have our rear-view mirror handy.

CCG: Our second question is for Ms Schivâ. What specifically sets your party apart from the competition?

MS: The first example is the language. My esteemed opponent is "agnostic" on el gheltg - in contrast, it's the thing that got me interested in Talossa first. The Popular Front is determined to encourage the use and expansion of our unique cultural inheritance, the Talossan language - no matter what "a certain dictator" might say. The second example is I oppose tinkering with our brand new constitution for at least the life of the first Chamber of Deputies. Let's give it a while to "bed down". The last major example I want to bring up is that the FP will make the incorporation of the Republic as a non-profit society a priority - so we can *all* own Talossan intellectual property. Oh, and we want a shiny new web-portal as well.

CCG: Mr Vercáriâ, your response?

DNV: To which question?

CCG: To Ms Schivâ's answer.

DNV: What kind of a question is this?

CCG: I ask her a question, she answers, and then you have an opportunity to respond.

DNV: And the question was? It kind of moved out of sight. ;-)

CCG: What is your response to her answer? Do you have one?

DNV: Well, the M.R.P. will not tinker with the brandnew constitution either, not in a hurry, but in the long run we'll bring in our well known proposals for amendments of the constitution. In the short run we shall try to find ways to attract more immigrants, for example by amended home pages that don't look back to the dethronization of R. de Rouergue - instead we think that our home pages should talk about "career opportunities" in the civilian sector of the

Republic, so to speak. For example, we may wish to offer the job of a Dean of the University of Talossa, a post which might also be assumed by a Friend of the Republic.

CCG: Next question is for you, Mr Vercáriâ. If you are elected to the Parlamînt, what will you and your party be doing from the first day? In other words, what is your immediate plan?

DNV: The most important issue might be the passing of an immigration act; of course in cooperation with all parties that will be in the parliament. Also, jobs in the High Court etc. should be brought out of the zone of provisionality.

CCG: Ms Schivâ. Your response?

MS: I look forward to co-operating with the MRP deputies on a new immigration act - including secret-ballot referendums on citizenship votes. I think there are other vital things that need to be dealt with first up, though. I think that legislation vesting responsibility for the content of our webspace - which my esteemed opponent rightly says needs updating - in the elected government of the Republic has to be a priority as well. The current webspace is outdated. And my opponent is right that we need a shiny webportal to attract new, non-ex-Kingdom citizens. But most importantly, it needs to be made clear that it belongs to the Republic, not to a private individual.

CCG: And our final question of the basic Q-and-A goes to Ms Schivâ. What is the best way to handle threats from outside the Republic?

MS: The only "threat" the Republic is ever likely to face is "a certain dictator" trying to prevent us using Talossan intellectual property. That should be dealt with by the elected government which can be held accountable to the people if the people don't like what it's doing. I know that several Republicans would rather such threats were ignored. And certainly the Republic will be an unpleasant place to live in, if such matters are what we talk about. But if real laws and real money are going to be brought in to stop us using our language - or even our name - ignorance becomes no longer an option. We must give in, or fight. And if we are to fight, much better that the elected government does so so that our

zebäts

public discourse is not tainted with such nasty, unpleasant matters.

CCG: Mr Vercáriâ, any response?

DNV: I agree that there are no real threats other than this one that is meant to steal our rightful Talossan identity. It's the M.R.P.'s stand that such threats shall be discussed in the open, because this is the way to avoid panics. We do not support secret security councils. I think that's one point that makes the M.R.P. different, in comparison with the PSD.

CCG: We now move on to the second round. Four questions again, except this time I will ask each of you the same question. However, you will not be allowed to respond to your opponent's answers. Understood?

MS: Versteht.

CCG: Herr Vercáriâ?

DNV: Entendu

CCG: Danke, bitte, etc.

Question One: What is your stance on the possibility of incorporating the Republic? Mr Vercáriâ first.

DNV: I'm for funding webspace and such, and this is consent amongst us peculiarists. Beyond this, I wonder how incorporating shall work in the big real world with it's multitude of nations etc. Something may be incorporated in America and not incorporated elsewhere at the same time. (never mind the typos)

CCG: Ms Schivâ? Your answer to the same question?

MS: As I mentioned above, I think it's vital. We need to be a legal entity so we can legally own our own webspace, intellectual property etc. We've seen what can happen when such things are "entrusted" to one person. It doesn't matter where, as long as *one* country's laws will recognize our property rights.

CCG: Second question: How would you define sovereignty for a nationette such as the Republic? Ms Schivâ first.

MS: Hmmm. Interesting question. I guess that "sovereignty" in the Talossan sense means that everything that happens in Talossa can get sorted out under Talossan culture and laws. In other words,



Christopher C. Gruber

we should act as much as possible as a self-governing, "autonomous" community, while, as I say above, being protected by macronational law from attacks by outsiders. The former dictatorship ended up splitting Talossa by trying to solve Talossan disputes by non-Talossan means. In that way, *he* violated precious Talossan sovereignty. I want to see this Republic self-sufficient as regards how we deal with one another. To use a sporting metaphor "what happens on the field stays on the field".

CCG: Same question, Mr Vercáriâ.

DNV: I would see our sovereignty as a state of mind. Peculiarism is the M.R.P.'s word for this. :-)

CCG: Third question. This one's about foreign policy. In what direction would you like the Republic to go with regards to foreign policy, and what do you intend to do to influence that vision in Parlamînt? Ms Schivâ first.

MS: Foreign policy for me boils down to the question of where new Talossans come from. Back in the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia, we immersed ourselves in the micronational "mainstream" - although not in their ridiculous mutual-masturbation "diplomacy". This meant that the very

best micronationalists looked at Penguinia and realised that we were a more vibrant, more fun and less obviously stupid community than their own. So they joined. Conversely, Penguinia shrivelled up and died when we moved out of that mainstream. Quite frankly, I think the best new Talossans will be those who've already got experience in other micronations and are looking for "the next step up". Abolishing the antiquated prohibitions on dual citizenship will help in this. So, the goal of foreign policy should be to gain a reputation in the micronational world as the best-run, most-fun micronation, and the least prone to pretend revolutions and petty-tyrant behaviour. To do this, we must open a dialogue with the very best other micronations. Septempontia leaps to mind - I'm sure there are others. Apart from the question of immigration, cultural exchanges can only enrich us. The former dictatorship was notorious for its isolationism. Isolationism, in the micronational sphere, leads to cult behaviour. No way should the Republic be enclosed by a Berlin Wall.

CCG: Mr Vercáriâ, your answer to the same question.

DNV: What she said. Open borders and a vibrant

debate

culture will hopefully help us to attract more citizens. Additionally, we should expand the non-political part of Talossa. More than 66% of the pop. sitting in the government and other branches of the state may possibly not attract people who are not into the very depths of politics.

CCG: Fourth question. What way will you and your party work with the office of the President on issues about which you are most concerned? Mr Vercáriâ first, please.

DNV: As you may know, presently we don't have a candidate for this office. Anyway, I think that the President her/himself should not be partisan. The President should be an uniting factor in Talossan politics, someone who's creative and inspiring the people.

CCG: Ms Schivâ, your turn.

MS: The President of the Republic has a clearly defined sphere of activity, as does the Seneschâl and ministers responsible to Parlamînt. I look forward to seeing how a French-style "two-headed" executive works in practice. The precise nature of the relationship, of course, depends on how much policy detail the parliamentary majority and the President have in common! In either case, if I am elected Seneschâl I will neither be subservient to the President's whims, nor try to marginalise him in the government process. Any joint-executive which I am a partner in will work as a team.

CCG: Thank you. Now we move onto the third round, in which you are allowed to ask each other two questions. Choose your questions wisely. And you will be prompted to ask them one at a time. First to ask will be Ms Schivâ. Your first question to Mr Vercáriâ?

MS: Esteemed opponent: if no party has a majority in the first Chamber of Deputies, will you be happy to co-operate with the FP on forming a government? If so, what priorities would your party have for a programme of joint government?

DNV: Even if the M.R.P.

continued on next page

would have a majority in the CoD, I'd wish to cooperate with the most active and most talented politicians to bring our nationette forward. Priorities: I suppose we already talked about this. Setting the Republic on the rails, smithing necessary laws such as an immigration law, doing something in the field of public relations, by refreshing our web pages, etc.

CCG: Ms Schivâ, you may ask one follow-up question to this answer if you wish.

MS: Mr Vercáriâ: how about cabinet posts in a joint government? What government jobs would the MRP most like?

DNV: We'll talk about this when it's time to talk about this. :-)

CCG: Okay, Mr Vercáriâ. You may ask your first question to Ms Schivâ.

DNV: Miestrâ, you certainly know that it's one of the main party planks of the M.R.P. that we want to take certain eligiblitly privileges out of the constitution. Would you support a step by step approach, first opening the Senate for all citizens to be eligible?

MS: I would say that that would be a nonsensical way to go about it since we don't *have* a Senäts at the moment!

CCG: Mr Vercáriâ, you may follow up this answer if you so choose.

DNV: Especially *because* we don't have a Senäts, we might get there sooner if all citizens of the provinces will be eligible.

MS: Look, if we are to amend the eligibility rules at all, it will have to be the actually existing office to which they apply at the moment - that is, the Presidency. I will not support a change to rules which are "in hibernation" anyway. That would be a meaningless gesture. And I will only support a change to the rules on the Presidency in the second Parlamint, after we've got a chance to see how the system works as a whole.

CCG: Ms Schivâ, you may ask your second question.

MS: Mr Vercáriâ, if the MRP gets the most seats and votes you will have the right to be Seneschâl of this Republic. Is this a responsibility that you really feel ready to take on?

DNV: Yes.

CCG: Ms Schivâ, any follow-up?

MS: The last Peculiarist Prime Minister of Talossa lasted seven weeks before getting bored and resigning. Think you can do better?

DNV: No doubt. :-) See, I've been an active Thingman in Penguinia for a while, and I've been Moderator and Secretary in Polyphony and I always got things done, he proudly says.

CCG: And Mr Vercáriâ, your sec-

ond question?

DNV: Since you talked about a government of national unity in your party flyers, what's your dream team, given you would become our first Seneschal?

MS: I don't want to announce the precise lineup of my team before I first know that I have the numbers in Parlamint to make it happen, and secondly before I've asked them to make sure they're keen. But I can let you know some things. Firstly, I think S:reu Anglatzarâ is a good Minister of Immigration and I'd like him to keep the job. Secondly, I want to take on the job of Minister of Culture myself, in order to push el ghetg dîn la Repubicâ most effectively. Thirdly, we need a Minister of Women's Affairs, and I want a female



Talossan who's not me to take on this role. Fourthly, and most importantly, I want *some* of the best and brightest Talossans not in the Government - because, for the sake of democracy, we need a strong Parliamentary opposition. So some people will not get into the Government even though they deserve it - because we need a strong alternative government, because without that democracy means nothing.

CCG: Any follow-up, Mr Vercáriâ?

DNV: No, not really. I have some doubts that a Ministry of Women's affairs will help us to solve the issue of an overproportional male population, but an attempt will at least not make things worse than they are.

MS: Anything which involves more women in Talossan public discourse can only be a good thing.

CCG: Okay, then. That brings us to the final round. You are each allowed to make a final statement, with no fol-

low-ups.

DNV: Hopefully, at 1:45 CEST.

CCG: Please be sure to make your final appeal to the Republic straightforward, as we are still in the midst of the eleziun. Mr Vercáriâ, you go first.

DNV: I think most of the important issues have been addressed. I'm looking forward to the first legislation period of the CoD, what more can I say?

CCG: And Ms Schivâ? Your final statement?

MS: The Popular Front brings together a diverse range of Talossans behind a full, yet simple, programme for Government. We have a plan, and we believe it is sound. All the MRP candidates are also talented, and I look forward to working with them in the MRP. The real question for the voters is: who

do you want to lead the first government of the Republic? Myself, or my esteemed opponent D. N. Vercáriâ? Think about that for a while - but not longer than this Thursday. Sâ vivâdra la Repubicâ! MS: (for second "MRP" read "CoD" above)

CCG: I thank you both for your time and effort. I believe the Republic is also grateful for your participation. Good luck to both of you, and good evening or morning as the case may be.

DNV: As for typos, don't edit this MRP typo, please... it's been too Freudian for this. :-)

MS: It's not my fault I type faster than I think!

CCG: I have the same problem, Dieter.

DNV: "my hands mistyped CoD, not my brain"

MS: yes. I no longer control the hands. The hands control ME!!!!

Choosing an electoral system

In a way, the electoral system of a country defines its political nature. Assemblies with a British legislative system tend to favour a two party system while proportional assemblies tend to produce a multitude of small parties.

There are exceptions of course. Canada for example, is currently plagued with the worst possible situation. The country is divided into 307 constituencies, 75 of which are in the province of Québec. All of the major 3 political parties (Liberal, Conservative and New Democrat) have a candidate in each of the constituencies, but one of the parties, the Bloc Québécois, only has candidates in the province of Québec.

In Québec, 54 of the 75 MPs are from the Bloc Québécois, with the remaining 21 being Liberals. It is expected that in the upcoming election will have the Bloc win an additional 6 seats from the liberal party.

Elsewhere in Canada, the three major parties fight for pro-eminence, with the Liberals (Center) always gain a few New Democratic (Left) voters who vote out of fear of the Conservatives (Right). In a proportional system, the New Democrats would most likely form a much bigger party, and get a fair share of the votes, and of the seats.

The situation is worse in Québec. A majority of the French speakers – who form roughly 80% of the population – vote for the Bloc Québécois, a left and pro-sovereignty party. The remainder of the population is mostly federalist and vote mainly against the Bloc. Under a perfect system, the Conservatives and the NDP would most likely win a small share of the Québec seats, but under our first past the post system, almost every anti-Bloc voter simply votes for the Liberals, fearing that a vote for the Conservatives or the NPD might divide the federalists and elect a “Bloquist”.

This means that there are 2 distortions in Québec : there is a distortion in the counting of the votes, in which the NPD and the Conservative have some of the votes, but no seats at all, and there is a distortion in the way voters vote. Many vote not for the Liberal party but rather against the Bloc.

The proportional system in use in Europe, and in Talossa at this moment, solves most of these problems. Multiple parties can be easily represented and voters intentions are well represented. The difference between the percentage of the votes and the percentage of the seats is



MARTI-PAIR FURXHÉIR looks at the options for electing a Talossan legislature.

slim.

In fact, in the Real Cosâ (RC20) system of the former Kingdom, the percentage of the vote for each party was the number of seats gained, divided by 5. EM200 screwed things up a little, but was still relatively close in percentages.

EM200 was, in my point of view, the single act that caused the inevitable break-up of the former Kingdom. In the past, under the RC20, a party with a lot of inactive voters needed “warm bodies” to fill its seats - otherwise, it couldn’t use them. A party with three active citizens and 15 voters for example, could very well win nine of the 20 RC20 seats (or 90 of the 200 EM200 seats) but would only be able to fill all of its seats under EM200, leaving the six extra seats of RC20 either empty or filled by non party members.

In that respect, RC20 encouraged big parties to be inclusive, to allow new citizens to take their place in the political process. It encouraged collaboration between parties, knowing well that a big party might need members of another party to fill some of its seats, like the PC did several times in the past.

But RC20 required 20 active citizens to vote on the Clark every month. With the TLP resigning from the Cosâ and the paranoid atmosphere not suitable

for immigration, it became less and less possible to achieve. The obvious solution should have been to temporarily reduce the size of the Cosâ to ten members, but instead, EM200 was approved.

This fact allowed Ben Madison to re-create the MN party, because he longer had to compromise with the PC party members to get Cosâ members. With only 3 party members, he could hold 90 of the 200 seats, and with only a fourth one, he could control the majority.

In the Republic, we decided to keep things real, rather than using the multiple seats per deputy system of EM200. We decided to do what should have been done and created a legislative house of a reasonable size : seven members. We also decided, early on, to have actual names of candidates on the ballot, in the form of the ranked list.

Since it is not easy to divide the votes between 7 seats, instead of using the direct percentage, the Sainte-Laguë, method of distribution was selected.

Both modifications from RC20 have huge advantages. First of all, the voters not only know for which party they are voting, but also for which citizens. The post-election seat negotiation days were over : a party is required to assign its seats according to its electoral list.

The second advantage is that the seat distribution process can be easily tweaked by playing with the dividers to favour fewer, bigger parties or to help more parties get their first seats. After discussion and several simulations, the 1.4, 3.5, 7.9, 11, 13 dividers were adopted, but can easily be modified in the future.

This solution appeared perfect to all of the citizens, until a problem appeared : What happens if a party gets more seats than it had candidates ? Four solutions were proposed :

- 1) Hold a partial election
- 2) Leave the seats empty
- 3) Only calculate the ratios for actual candidates
- 4) Allow a party to nominate the seat holders

An informal vote was held (it didn’t get Quorum) declaring option 2 to be the winner, but since option 4 was only added as a write-in, I suspect it might have been the most popular option.

I suspect that this particular problem will almost never occur, unless parties voluntarily provoke the situation by submitting almost no candidates, or if a major surprise occurs. The only other case that could occur, is if a party gets the sup-

port voters excluded from the house (President, SoS, judges and Senators).

Option 4 could easily fix that particular problem, without requiring a by-election and without requiring a partial house of deputies for a 6 months period.

But some of the M.R.P. members, instead of trying to improve the current system, are pushing for a different system, which Penguinia was using, the Single Transferable Vote (STV). STV is popular in many countries, because it allows, unlike the proportional system, all of the deputies to be locally elected, with a closer representation of the voter's wishes common to proportional or partially proportional systems.

But the STV is mainly useful with several constituencies each composed of several seats. In a country like the Republic, STV could really only be applied with a single constituency and it's complexity would require more work for the voter, as well as for the Secretary of State. In the former Kingdom for example, pre-TLP split, the STV could have been applied with each province receiving from 1 to 5 Cosâ members, depending on their size.

STV is one of the most complex system to administer, and in a place like British Columbia, Canada, who will soon have a referendum to adopt it, it can truly be beneficial.

I sincerely believe that STV, which is a definitive improvement over both the British system and the Proportional systems, wouldn't be superior to the proportional system currently in place. I am convinced that the only advantage STV has over our current system would be to produce locally elected deputies which is not, at this moment, required.

The proponents of STV in Talossa are even proposing to abandon the Party system and instead to have candidates individually campaign. Parties have been in the center of the Talossan history for a quarter of a century, and are, in my humble opinion, a necessity to encourage discussion, consensus and long term stability. After all, we are all Talossans only part time, and parties allow to ally the creativity of the various party members to that when one of the members is too busy, another can take up the baton.

Birth Notice

Qator Itrîns offers its heartiest congratuations to Tomás Gariçéir, the foremost proponent of the Talossan language, and his partner Maggie on the birth of their first child, Rory.

Noticiâ da Nataschâ

Qator Itrîns profra sieu gratüleschaziuns pü cjärtaloûrs à Tomás Gariçéir, el propoçadéir praiminînd del glhetg Talossán, és sieu uschôr Margretâ, sùr la nataschâ da sieu figlheu pirmalaiset, Rúari.

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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Qator Itrîns welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 2,000 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. Sã vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossán!

THE RISING PHOENIX... ONE YEAR LATER.



QATAR ITRINS

TALOSSA'S PREMIER
NEWS-MAGAZINE

VOLUME 2, No. 1
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ONE YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC!
WHERE TO FROM HERE?

"Let A Hundred Schools Of Thought Contend!"

Damn. If you'd told me two years ago - let alone seven - that in 2005 I would be the elected Prime Minister of a Talossan Republic, serving alongside President Chris Gruber, I would have only stopped laughing long enough to check your pupils for the tell-tale dilation of the serious drug addict. And yet, here we are.

We have begun a tradition in this Republic - which I think is a good one - that once a year, on our Independence Day (June 1), the doors of our Parlamînt are thrown open so that all citizens may enter and speak their mind. I didn't participate this year due to frantic business in other aspects of my life. So in this editorial I'll take my chance to address the nation - not in my official capacity as its Prime Minister, but as a private citizen, who just happens to run a newspaper, stringing together some random thoughts.

Could it be, for a start, that seven seats is too big for a legislative chamber of a Republic our size? It's certainly good that there was real competition for seats in the Chamber election - even that deserving candidates such as Gjermund Higrapp or Andy Lowry missed out. Because if everyone competent was in government, then elections would be a sham. If our legislature continues to work well with only four consistently active Deputies, should the size of the Chamber be decreased to five next time? It's worth discussing.

Another thing worth discussing is why almost all the lesser-active citizens of the Republic threw their lot in, in both Presidential and Chamber elections, with Michael Pope's Guelph party. This "silent faction" nearly took both elections away from the PSD/FP favourites - to the surprise of everyone, not least the Guelphs. Again, a good thing. It proves that Republic democracy is far from the predictable farce that passed for electoral politics in the Kingdom. The leaders can be beaten - and maybe will be next time.

When Mao Zedong said "let a hundred schools of thought contend" in China in the late 1950's, the resultant brief flowering of free speech was quickly neutralised by the Stalinist power structure. Hopefully, we elected leaders of the Republic are not such hypocrites. Of course, the PSD/FP has no intention whatsoever of losing the coming Chamber election in August/September! But if there is a serious question as to whether we will, it proves that Talossan democracy is alive and breathing.

Long live the Talossan Republic, and welcome to Year II



Miestrâ Schivâ
Seneschál dal Repúblicâ

"Që Cînt Schulâs Cumpulsadrent!"

Miéida. Schi si tenadra zirat à mhe ja douâ ârs - zirarë nitgal övër seifet - që dîn 2005 eu seréu el Seneschál electadâ d'iensâ Repúblicâ Talossân, perservînd adelmás Prüm Citaxhiên Chirisch Cavéir, tenadréu ceðar ridar solamînt lungmînt për investigar sieu pupils për la estericaزيون acusichéu del tóxico seriös. És ischù, ja nhoi.

Noi tiennent auspicats 'n tradiziun dîn aceastâ Repúblicâ - që consideréu 'n bunâ - që viêns fâts për âr, sür âr Ziuâ dal Independençù (la Calondâ Gün), si regaða las poartâs d'âr Parlamînt për që toct i citaxhiêns povent entrar és parlar sieu opiniuns. Non téu participat dîn adest âr à c'hauçâ da

adsidourmáintsch frántic dîn äspectsen othreux da va vidâ. Aglhôrc, nun dîn adest editoriál prindarhéu l'escasençâ adreðar la naziun - non dîn va titreu ufiçial come sieu Seneschál, más come 'n citaxhiên privâts, qí escasençamînt dirixha 'n xhurnál, cunxhestînd dals pensaziuns fortúpts.

È-ça që, pirméis, seifet eshcâns isch trô grült për 'n camerâ lexhislatiù d'iensâ Repúblicâ da âr grülteçâ? C'è echidâ ben që hi füt cumpetaziun vrâts për eshcâns dîn la eleziun dal Camerâ - mismâ që dels candidâtsilor valentéux come Gjermund Higrapp eda Andy Lowry tiennent failat. Parç që schi cadascù els competînts seradrent dîn el governamáintsch, aglhôrc las eleziuns seradrent 'n sturnêtz. Schi âr lexhislatiur continuarha ben funziunar cün solamînt qator Deputats cunsistentmînt actiùs, e-ça që la grülteça dal Camerâ fost estarë titicadâ à simcâ la fâts proxim? Discutar adest valoradra.

Ocsâ valoradra discutir pèrqët prescâ cadascù citaxhiên müus-actiùs dal Repúblicâ tiennent votat, dîn las eleziuns és prumcitaxhiênál és lexhislatiù, për el Parti Guelph da Michael Pope. Adest "facçál sileçat" tiennent prescâ avlat embù las eleziuns dels favoris PSD/FP - àl supriçâ da toct i tzarâ, non müus els Guelphs. 'N altreu fâts, 'n cosâ bunâ. Adest prua që democracù dîn la Repúblicâ isch luegñh dal farçù prainunçavál qí tent pasat come els politici electorâis dîn el Regipäts. Els dûceux povent estarë vincitats - és pût-estarë serent vincitats, la fâts proxim.

Quând zireva Mao Zedong, "që cînt schulâs cumpulsadrent", dîn Cinâ dels ârs schpéit-50, el efloramáintsch scürznieu reieschînd füt neutraliçat rapidamînt par las praipotençâs Stalinistâns. Esperançîndmînt, noi dûceux electats és dûceâs electadâs dal Repúblicâ non sînt táis simuladéirs. Da c'horsicâ, el PSD/FP non tent aucün intenziun pierthar la eleziun dal Camerâ vând dîn Guscht/Setemvár! Más schi ja 'n quesziun seriös övër siat noi pierthadrent, adest prua që democracù Talossân viva és respira.

Sâ vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân, és beneveschti àl Àr II.

Cavéir and Schivâ - what a team!

The dual-headed Executive set up by the Constitution of the Republic has been filled by the two leaders of the Social Democratic Party (PSD) - although it was a near run thing.

In the Chamber of Deputies (parliamentary) election, the Popular Front list headed by PSD secretary Miestrâ Schivâ won 47% of the vote and three out of the available seven seats. An informal coalition was formed with the Movement for Republic Peculiarism, who won a disappointing 18% of the vote and only returned one Deputy, to make Schivâ the first *Seneschâl* (Prime Minister) of the Republic.

In the Presidential election, outgoing Dean of the Provisional Governing Council and PSD president Chirisch Cavéir won 41% of the first preference vote. Two thirds of the MRP vote - again, of 18% - swung Cavéir's way on the recount, giving him a razor-thin 53% majority.

The story of the elections was the shocking performance of founding Dean Michael Pope's Guelph Party. The Guelphs were widely derided by their opponents as a "one-man" band, with Pope being their only

consistently active citizen. But that may have been what led to their massive vote among "less active" citizens - according to one estimate, two-thirds of non-aligned voters voted Guelph in the Chamber election, rising to a massive 83% in the Presidential election.

The Guelph's low support among active citizens came back to haunt them in the Chamber election, however. The Guelphs were entitled to three seats with their 35% of the vote, but could only fill two of them. Their leader, Michael Pope, has taken up the role of Opposition Leader in the new Chamber, while PSD loyalist Marti-Páir Furxhéir has taken over as Speaker of the House (or *Túischac'h*).

Overall, turnout was outstanding for an electorate of the Republic's size. 85% of the population expressed a preference in both elections. The fact that less-active citizens participated in the election in large amounts is something to celebrate - and the reasons why they voted Guelph in large numbers is something to analyse.

MRP leader D. N. Vercáriâ offers his analysis of the Chamber elections on page 7 of this issue.



Our editorial cartoonist's take on the heads of our newly elected Government - who both happen to be musicians

WEDDING NOTICE

Qator Itrins is pleased to congratulate the President of the Republic, Chirisch Cavéir, and the Minister for Women's Affairs, Dp. Rischâ Cavéir (nascadâ Scovaglh), on the occasion of their marriage.

First Elected Government Swings Into Action

New *Seneschâl* Miestrâ Schivâ has wasted no time since her election in pulling together an activist government.

"The next, regularly-scheduled Chamber election will have to happen before September 1 this year," she told *Qator Itrins*, "and I am determined to win it. With the Guelphs breathing down our neck, the pro-government parties have to prove that we have the drive, the energy and the tenacity to deserve a full six-month term after that."

Schivâ has made good on her Popular Front campaign policies by naming a multi-party government. The incumbent independent Im-

migration Minister, Ián Anglatzarâ, has not only been retained but named *Distáin* (Deputy Prime Minister). Peculiarist Deputy D. N. Vercáriâ, who was highly critical of FP strategy and policy during the election campaign, has also been welcomed into the fold as Foreign Minister and Attorney-General.

The President of the Republic, Chirisch Cavéir will handle the portfolios of Information and Defence, while PSD Deputy and First Lady Rischâ Cavéir has taken on the new role of Minister of Women's Affairs.

The new *Seneschâl* has outlined a brisk schedule of legislative projects aimed at bringing the Popular Front manifesto

to life. A new Immigration Act, mandating secret-ballot referendums on all new citizens as well as a yearly Census, is promised - as is a National Webspac Act, taking responsibility for website content out of its current private hands and placing it in the hands of the elected Government.

The centrepiece of the big projects, however, will be the foundation of a Talossan Academy, which will take responsibility for the Republic's cultural, historical and linguistic destiny. Schivâ describes this as "the most precious of my legislative babies. Much of the recent criticism around the stagnation in the national language project is well deserved. All I can say to my critics is

that it won't happen overnight, but most assuredly it will happen."

Meanwhile, the new government's policy of a cautious opening of relations with "serious and stable" micronations has begun, with the new Foreign Minister showing commendable initiative in making diplomatic overtures to a frankly startled micronational community.

"The clock is ticking," said Schivâ. "We've got a platform to bring into action in less than three months. With a legislative blitz and a government that functions as a real team - for the first time in Talossan history - we have a good chance of succeeding."

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Our neighbours speak

In honour of the new Government's cautious opening to the micronational world, we publish two articles by foreign micronational dignitaries. These articles are presented for public interest only and their publication does not necessarily entail any approval of their contents by either Qator Itrins or the Talossan Government.

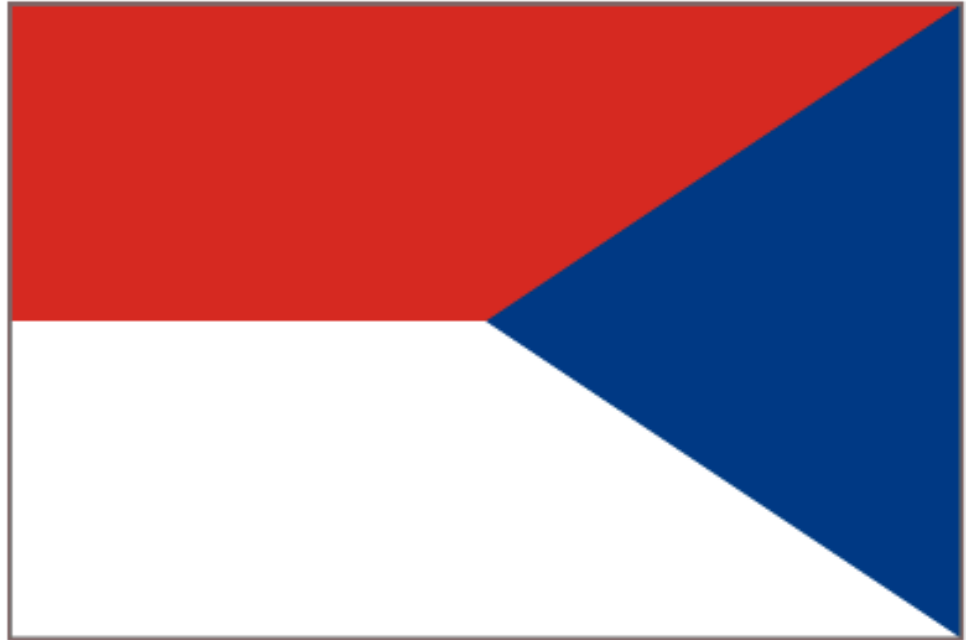
1. The Culture of Micronations

By Grand Czar Krisztian of Cyrenia -
<http://cyrenia0.tripod.com/index.html>

If you take the point of view of a non-micronationalist, micronations are babyish attempts to escape the real world and a crazy sort of game where adults play Kings and Queens. This is a typical approach favoured by the media on most of the rare occasions micronationalism gains some mention by the press, and I think I can safely say it irritates all micronationalists greatly. But if these people were to scratch beneath the surface of the hobby, then not only would they find all their assumptions were incorrect, they would also find an interesting and exciting world bubbling with culture. All micronations like to have a culture of some sort, or at least a type of underlying theme, as suggested by His Excellency Kevin Baugh, the President of Molossia, in his article 'How to start your own micronation'. In this article we will take a look at some of the most interesting of these cultures in the world.

The Sovereign Principality of Corvinia was from the beginning dedicated to its culture with a Ministry of Cultural affairs website set up, and a duo of Grand Surveys of Corvinian Culture. On the 'Canon of Corvinian Culture' webpage, whose information was drawn from the Grand Surveys, it is reported that the main cultural pursuits of citizens included drawing, writing, photography, reading and attending the cinema and theatre. Specific artists and authors being main subjects of popularity in Corvinia included J.R.R Tolkien, Mozart, Poe, and Kipling, while Sean Connery was also praised for his acting skills. Corvinia also considered the national anthem and war march to be essential components of the nation's unique Nordic culture. Interestingly enough, the state's heraldry was also thought as a vital tradition.

Another both good and popular way to make use of micronational culture is through Science and History. The Republic of Molossia is a particularly good example of this, with its respective Institute of Volcanology and Ministry of



The Cyrenian flag

Space Exploration. The nation has obviously gone to great lengths to establish its culture in this way. Molossia launched its first rocket as part of the Ministry of Space Exploration's projects in 1999, Tidal Wave, which, as commented by President Kevin Baugh, "was workhorse of our space program". It was followed by a second, Astrocara, which was designed to take aerial photographs, but however failed due to design flaws that made the aircraft nose heavy. In addition to these Molossia attempted to levitate a camera during the Hyperion balloon flight in order to yet again take aerial photos, and established a National Observatory. Also, a section of Venusian territory, Vesperia, was also claimed by Molossia for the Ministry of Space Exploration, after a crater on the planet was found with the name Lisa, after the Molossian First Lady.

The Republic of Talossa has also a diverse culture, particularly with credit to the language, and the supposed 'Berberization' of the population while it was still living under the rule of King Robert I. The Talossan language however, is truly unique, for both Talossan nations

are the only well established micro-states that have their own unique conlang. Many less well-known micronations that have conlangs were devised simply for that purpose; to be a state in which whatever is the official language. Talossan however is a brilliant language, and will continue to flourish as long as this publication continues to be partially written in it. It is just a terrible shame that the tyrant King Robert I would rather *no one* have access to the language than the Republic of Talossa have some of it.

The Empire and Grand Czardom of Cyrenia and Eastarctica has always strived to obtain a culture of sorts, and several factors contribute to the nation's success in that sense. Cyrenia started out with a basic principle; to emulate the old Imperial Russian Tsars, and that it has achieved surprisingly well. The state also has conducted a survey to try and discern the different aspects of the nation's culture, which resulted in a wide range of common music and literature tastes being revealed. Cyrenia is also home to many Historical points of Interest, in addition to a rather subdued and vague attempt to create a standard of cookery and

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food in the micronation.

The Ibrosian Protectorate's culture lies within its National Parks, the Mound and the Niweilk T'Kremponi parks. Niweilk is the oldest, and serves as a habitat for birds and to preserve the

natural beauty of the Redeke islands area. It consists of three islands, Redeke, Niweilk, and T'Kremponi, the latter however being far too small to visit. According to the park authority, the surrounding area is also a beautiful country location, with a

small hill and village. However, the nation also has many favoured artists and composers, particularly Philip Larkin, Rudyard Kipling, and Robert Burns-Including the work Robert Bruce's March to Bannockburn.

It is therefore obvious that once you poke your nose around in micronationalism a bit then a brilliant society is revealed which holds many benefits and advantages. And doing that is called becoming a micronationalist.

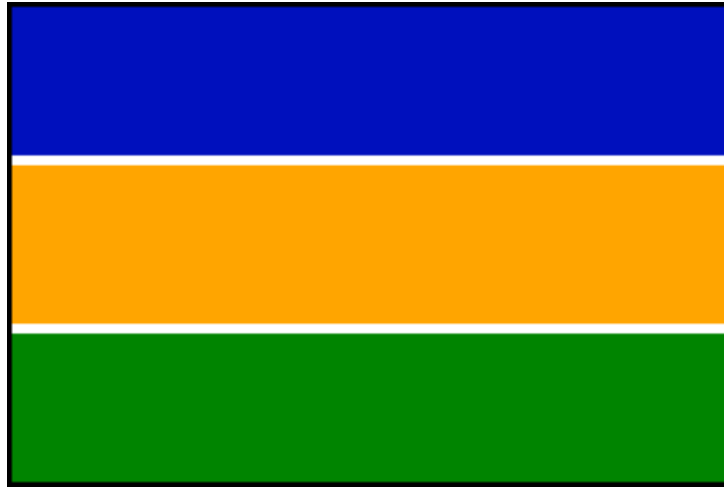
2. The Life of the Party

By **Matthew Vasroixe**
(*Republic of Lavalon -*
www.lavalonrepublic.com)

Political parties are many and all over the place in the "real world." Some parties are in politics for a broad set of ideals, and others are in it for specific issues. People have different ideas about how government should be run; when there is a democracy, the next logical step is for these ideas to represent themselves as votes. Those who share the same ideas either consciously or unconsciously vote together as a bloc.

Many medium- to large-sized micro-nations have political parties. In fact, democratic micro-nations are no less ripe for a multitude of political parties than are the macro-nations of Italy, Great Britain, or Japan. Micro-nations with multiple political parties in competition with each other, within a stable, democratic framework have more debate and discussion than micro-nations with only a single political party in control.

Some micro-nations have only one party, which basically serves as either a de facto or de jure government institution. The Socialist State of New Germany (SSNG) is an example of a de jure party institution. By definition, at least in micro-national terms, an organization must have at least two members to be considered a party. In the Republic of Lavalon there are three individuals purporting to be the chairmen of political parties that actually consist only of themselves; there, the Socialist Party exercises de facto control since it is the only real political party, having three members. Its Chairman, Bartholomew Henzelli, is



The Lavalonian flag

now calling the shots in Lavalon, even though his party does not have as members even a slight majority of total Lavalonian citizens. Mr. Henzelli is also the President of the SSNG.

Lavalon is, nevertheless, open to party building and political discourse. Another party formed to displace the Socialists in Lavalon is always a possibility. It would be easy for power to change hands, but it takes a fair amount of cooperation and settling of differences.

In a one-party or no-party state, a single leadership really controls the government. In a two-party state, two leaderships really control the government-exchanging hands from time-to-time at the whims of the voting populace. The two parties in a two-party state do sometimes exchange votes or cooperate on basis of necessity. In states with more than two parties there are multiple leaderships which bind together out of necessity to form coalitions. Even in a democratic state, if there is de facto single-party rule, decisions and appointments are not made out of cooperative necessity but out a desire

of the dominating party to maintain and extend its unilateral control over the government and foreign affairs of the state.

The Republic of Talossa is indeed moving on a healthy path by promoting a two-party system. The most active micro-nations will have greater divisions between those who feel differently about how the micro-nation should be run. This is not an unhealthy but a healthy situation. Peaceful conflict, occurring within a strong democratic framework, will (or should) always result in resolution. That is why it is important for democratic micro-nations to encourage political discourse and to provide ways for the political parties to which citizens may belong to influence policy-making decisions, even if the majority or ruling party could potentially be upstaged by another political party. Democracy should be a fair game, not something twisted or manipulated for special interests, especially those of a single party.

Some micro-nations have bypassed political parties altogether. The Empire of Antica, best known for hacking into and damaging the websites of friendly and more "se-

rious" micro-nations, has banned political parties in favor of politically-motivated discussion clubs. In Antica, real power rests in the hands of two military-like leaders known as dinarchs. Some micro-nations simply are not democratic, and were designed with the intent to be that way. Some claim to be democratic in theory, but are not in practice. Single-party states may be democratic, but corruptly. The micro-national world is filled with grand poo-bahs and kings, and none of them should be expected to become democratic; however, of those micro-nations that claim to be democratic, there should be a real democratic system, not some sham party concocted by a few key people, usually those who founded the micro-nation. New voices should be heard.

Parties must be willing to work within the democratic framework. Parties cannot call for the destruction of the democratic framework. Ultra-right and ultra-left parties should not participate in the democratic framework unless they are willing to work within it, even if they achieve majority or ruling status. Political parties should not be recognized by the government if they are dangerous in this respect. This is not being anti-democratic, but pro the democratic system. Political parties should have the right to call for the enhancement or reform of the democratic framework, constitutional or otherwise, as long as the objective of such enhancement or reform is to secure the power of a single party or coalition. It is a shame, but often the usurpation of power occurs at the ballot box—or, in our case, the electronic voting mechanism. That should not be so in a truly democratic micro-nation.

one year of the republic - special

How are we doing?

by GÖDAFRÏEU VALCÁDAC'H

A year ago today, and after months of probably as bad a tyranny any micronation has ever had to endure, eleven citizens of the Kingdom of Talossa renounced their citizenships to that kingdom and started their own micronation, the Republic of Talossa, and in the process claimed sovereignty over four Kingdom provinces. Eleven Talossans did that on 1 June 2004, and we were soon followed by another three, two of which had renounced a month-and-a-half earlier - events that gave the great ignition to the dried up and dead forest of broken Kingdom-Talossanity.

Soon after our Independence, former Talossans we never thought we would hear from again came out of the woodwork and joined us - members of what has been referred to as the Talossan Diaspora. Since that time, other former Kingdom prospectives have joined, we have begun the slow process of forming our own culture, and we have put into force our constitution.

As for our governmental institutions, the newly-ratified Constitution has assured us a solid foundation for such things for years to come. It is the product of nine months of tedious and frustrating work by the Constitutional Committee, begun by Michael Pope, but led for much of its life by the esteemed Miestrâ Schivâ. Our Parliamint, while in a temporarily-unicameral state, is fully-functional. The Presidency is being contested even as I write this article, but the Dean of the Provisional Governing Council is doing an excellent job in an "Acting President"ial role. The Provisional High Cort, in accordance with the terms laid out in the Constitution, still exists and will do so until replaced by its permanent counterpart, and that will happen once the President is elected. A Secretary of State has been confirmed (one of the last acts of the Provisional Governing Council), and is busy with his duties as is his Database Administrator who is



**Gödafrieu Valcádac'h is
Secretary of State of the
Talossan Republic.**

responsible for the electronic/computer infrastructure of the workings, both public and private, of our nationette.

Which brings up *el gghetg Talossán*... Aside from Talossans themselves, it is the chief cornerstone of Talossan culture, and it has never been in a more precarious situation. Owing to the refusal (to this point anyway) by its inventor, Robert I of the Kingdom, to allow the outside world access to language development and the quasi-incommunicado status of its second-most important advocate (for understandable and excellent Real-Life reasons), Tomas Garicier, the language is in limbo. We in the Republic wait and watch for what the Kingdom will do: there is a Third Edition of the Talossan Dictionary and Grammar in the works - will the Kingdom allow the world (and us) to see it? Making certain the language thrives is the one thing every Talossan on the face of the earth seems to agree on.

But does Robert I? He has claimed copyright over all his pres-

entations of the language, though it is pretty clear that for non-commercial purposes, a language cannot be copyrighted. It is the Great Question of Talossa's future, and if the language is split into Kingdom and Republic dialects, will either be strong-enough on its own to support its version of the language

But enough about Robert I, for he was the Tyrant from whom we escaped a year ago today. What about us?

Well, there is one situation that occurred last year that, more than anything else that has happened to us, assures me that we are doing things right in the Republic. And that is the way in which the misunderstandings over the Council for Talossan Unity (an email list that is acting as a watchdog against recriminations from Ben Madison without having to bother the rest of the country about it) were ironed out and made right. The person who had the misunderstandings came to a realization that he had been mistaken over a few things, and he owned up to that, and there were no hard feelings on either side of the issue.

This is adult behavior at its best! Something like this is what should have happened to a far greater degree in Halloween 2003 than it did (and I am talking about Robert I here, not the former Grey Congress Party). The resolution of the little scuffle over the Council for Talossan Unity was our greatest moment so far. This situation was a test, and we passed in flying colors.

There are three political parties in the Republic, and they have their own distinct identities. But they are playing clean and fair with one another, and that's the way real democracy is supposed to operate! And at the end of the day and no matter what the politics may be, inside or outside Talossa, we all are still getting along very well, thank you very much!

How are we doing?

Splendidly.

Happy First Anniversary!

viens år dal república - speciál

Magic numbers

by Dp. D. N. VERCÁRIÁ

The first Chamber of Deputies (CoD) elections in the still brandnew Republic of Talossa are over. They have been a success, proving one more time that the Republic of Talossa is on the winning street since the days when the Talossans overthrew the en-crusted regime of their founding father and King.

So now let's have a closer look at the results of the elections. The magic numbers are 8-6-3-1-2, summed up they make the total of 20 electors, of which 2 didn't vote. That is to say, the voter turn-out has been 90 %, which is excellent, especially if we take into account that maybe only approximately 10 Talossans are permanently involved in the daily social life on Wittenberg. Apparently a lack of participation there on the electronic fora doesn't mean that these „absentees“ don't care about Talossan politics.

Talking about these politics, it seems like the Popular Front is the winner of the CoD elections, and thus representing the political mainstream amongst the citiziens of the Republic. In other words, it may seem like the PSD (Party of Social Democrats) won the elections with a total of 8 votes. Well, of course they did; the PSD convinced all of their supporters to join the Popular Front, all seven citiziens on this list voted for themselves, plus someone who was not on the list but probably is no one less than the PSD's president and their candidate for the coming President elections, Chris Gruber. The PSD can be happy with their election result insomuch as they success-

fully persuaded their supporters to come out of the closet and to subscribe to the list of the Popular Front; but the PSD and their Popular Front didn't attract more voters, and so finally a majority of electors did not vote for the PSD/Popular Front.

One of the surprising results of the CoD elections is that the MRP came off badly. No-one but the three party members themselves voted for the Peculiarists. From an optimistic point of view I must say, that the result could have been worse; in small communities such as micronations one has to be happy if finally a party doesn't get less votes than they have members. I'm also happy to think that the elections have been about politics and party programs rather than the popularity of party members. Anyway, there's no escape from the matter of fact that apparently the party planks of the MRP have not been popular at all.

I guess, that short after the end of the so-called revolutionary era of our young Republic no-one was interested in further amendments of the constitution and electoral procedures. It didn't help that we tried to explain that said proposed amendments are meant to be long-term projects. I guess that said proposed amendments were so unwelcome that no-one even considered to vote MRP for the merits of some of their members. To some extent, as an optimist, I have to say that the latter is a good thing. One could assume that the electors in their wisdom just weighted the words that the parties uttered in regards of the future of our Republic.



D. N. Vercáriá is Foreign Minister of the Talossan Republic and leader of the Movement for Republican Peculiarism (MRP)

One could assume this, if there hadn't been this other surprising, even stunning result of the elections. Something happened that according to the PSD's own Marti-Pair Furxheir was unlikely to happen or at least should be prevented or even punished by measures of the Electoral Act: A landslide victory of a small party. Yes, this miracle happened. The small Guelph Party, for a long time belittled as a one-man-party with no program and plan, got almost all votes of those citiziens who weren't members of one of

the true or perceived favourite parties in this recent CoD campaign. All „swinger“ votes except one abstention, that is.

The funny thing about the secret ballot CoD elections is that thanks to the party/partisan list voting system and the results it's absolutely no secret who voted for whom. There are two citiziens who didn't vote at all – compare the citiziens list to the list of voters, and they're outed. Then guess who voted for the PSD/Popular Front – no problem. The supporters of the MRP

one year of the republic - special

– an open book. Guelphs: Two members, who certainly didn't vote for the „opposite camp“. There's a little uncertainty about the one who decided to abstain, but remembering all recent debates on Wittenberg one might guess who it was, too.

That leaves us with the stunning insight, that the supporters of the Guelph Party aren't a monolithic bloc, at least not regarding their various religious or other preferences. But there must be something that they have in common. Well, they have something in common: They didn't vote for those lists of candidates that were perceived as the „big“ or even the „real“ parties. There have been citizens who expressed their opinion that they don't like the idea of having parties – they possibly voted for the Guelph Party because the Guelphs didn't resemble a party for a long while. Then there possibly have been electors who voted conservative: Not for the PSD's main plank that was about making Talossa more female-friendly and more multicultural, let alone for the MRP's rallying cries for amendments of the constitution.

It's probably unfair to assume that all those who voted for the Guelphs were protesters against a perceived progressive, „politically correct“ establishment. Certainly Micheal Pope impersonates best what he called „the Guelph Difference“, which I understood as a metaphor for a Talossa that talks to the heart and soul of the citizens, a laid-back feelgood Talossa, so to speak, that shall never drown in the swamplands of constant political bickering again. Maybe I misunderstood him, but I'm sure he's the man to forgive a misunderstanding like this.

Anyway that's where we are, the magical numbers resulting of all of this are 3 – 3 – 1: 3 seats for the PSD/Popular Front, 3 seats for the Guelph Party (of which one will remain empty, thanks to the lack of registered candi-

dates), 1 seat for the MRP. Looks pretty fair, in my humble opinion, as the PSD/Popular Front failed to win an absolute majority of seats in spite of only a relative majority of votes for them, the Guelphs ran short of personnel and the MRP failed to find more supporters than they have members.

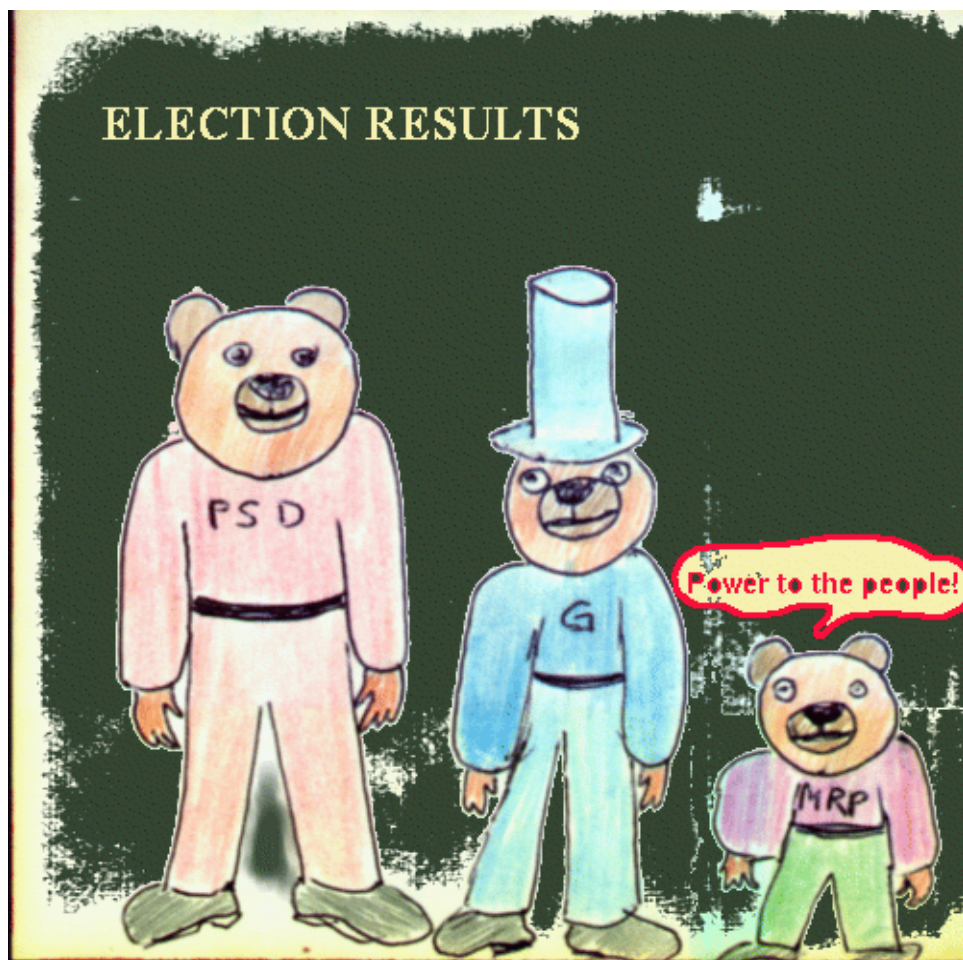
Beyond the statistics there are people. It's now up to the Members of Parlamînt to make something of the mandate that the electors have given them. Looking at the whole picture, the CoD is perfectly representing the diversity of the new Talossa. It's like Talossa in a nutshell. We've elected deputies

from three continents, women and men, American conservatives as well as people who may be considered to be on the far left of the political scale; there are genuine Anglophones and people whose first language isn't English, devoted „conlangers“ and such who are, in the words of Miestrâ Schivâ, agnostic in the issue of *el ghetg naziunâl*; there are religious and agnostic deputies as well as any variety inbetween, and it isn't a miracle any more that there are also two former Penguinians in the legislative body of Talossa.

Long live this Republic.

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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Covers by Chirisch Cavéir.

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Qator Itrîns welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 2,000 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. Să vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân!



Q A T O R I T R Ì N S

VOLUME 2, N^o. 2 AUGUST/GUSCHT 2005/xxvi/II



ELEZIUN SPECIAL: The PSD Manifesto for the Second Chamber Election

ALSO INSIDE:

- Dieter Vercária's Report on Foreign Affairs
- Point / Counterpoint on Provincial Reassignment
- and more!

Where are all the immigrants?

Although this may be a surprise to some of you - and I'd like to at this point give a hearty "Azul!" to the Royalist operatives monitoring us - *Qator Itrins* is not a propaganda sheet for the Government of the Republic. It is our job as the foremost journal in free Talossa to ask the hard questions, especially at election time. And here's the hardest question we can think of. *Where are all the immigrants?*

I'm sure we all like to think we've built ourselves a nice, if a bit ragged, working model of "what free Talossa should be". We have a truly accountable and democratic system of government which encourages participation, and a vibrant culture where we can disagree with one another without breaking out into near fatal duels. In general, we have managed to recreate many of the features of pre-Revolutionary Talossa which attracted us in the first place - and through this, we've encouraged a fair number of the "Talossan Diaspora" back.

But I think we can all agree that it's not quite enough. Certainly, we planned for growth - and quite major growth - when we wrote up our constitution. The Senäts and provincial sections of our government will remain a dead letter until we're about double the size we are now. The problem is that I don't think we planned a means by which this growth will come about.

It's not something that's needed much thought in Talossan history. Our former head of state, for all his well-publicised and sickening faults, is devoted to the survival of Talossa and is quite fanatical about marketing it. (The fact that he doesn't have to work a day job like lesser mortals and can concentrate on Talossa nearly full-time no doubt also helps.) There will never be a shortage of prospective citizens for North Talossa - although no doubt most of them will run screaming within a matter of months.

To some extent, I think that we've sat back and expected our Republic's undoubted charms to attract newcomers by the dozen. It hasn't happened, and if it continues not to happen I predict dire things for our future. As a veteran of Penguinia, let me tell you what happens when the new citizens dry up - the old citizens get bored, cynical and turn on one another. And in the absence of a central figure who really doesn't have anything to do but keep the Republic going, our beloved revolutionary state could very well die of boredom.



Miestrâ Schivâ

**PSD candidate for
Seneschâl dal Repûblicâ**

süstém da governamaintsch vrätsmînt rëspunçivâl és democrätic qi encoraxha la partiçipaziun dels citaxhiëns, és 'n cûlturâ dove si pût ráisnar sânc començar 'n duél fatál. Xhenerálmînt, noi tiennent chelchelat recreatarë plüers dals acostramaintschen dal Talossa anáintsch-revoluzionál qi noi atractevent urixhinálmînt - és, pë r a cest, plüers dal "Diasporâ Talossán" sînt reinvândrats.

Más eu créu që noi toct povent agrear që non c'è ben aßéi. Për certán, noi planevent pë r grandeça - és grandeça ben signhificând - quând noi scrivevent ár constituziun. El Senäts és las secziuns provinciáis d'ár governamaintsch restarhent nonfunziunînds txuscâ noi serent abüéc'ht douâ fäts schi grült come nun. El problüm, c'è që non créu që noi tiennet planat 'n aválitâ pë r qët aceastâ grandeça se paßarha.

Non c'è qualsecosâ qi fostevent tirë belacop da pensaziun dîn la tgistoriâ Talossán. Ár cäps d'estát viestîmpmînt, zëspäts toct sieu cupäs ben-säpescûns és nauseaváis, isch zivoteu àl sùrvivonça dal Talossa, és aßéi fänaticál övër la cumertschar. (Ocsâ atxuta që o non fost ërbhëtar ziuësmînt come els mortadéis müsen és aglhôrc pût cuncentrar àl Talossa prescâ toctziuálmînt.) Non hi sera 'n scurzniátx dels prospectatiux pë r Talossa Northesc - ivënthö sânc dubitaziun el püpärts da lhor scaparhent dîn viensäs mesen.

Qualsevej, créu që noi tiennent aßetat és expectat që las caupräs ünzisputaváis d'ár Repûblicâ dulcëscharhent dals dudëscháinäs dels athvaintoûrs. Acest non se tent paßat, és schi acest continua non se paßar eu prainunçéu dals cosäs peremptorxhäs dîn ár fütür. Come 'n veterán dal Penguiniâ, që eu zirarhéu qët se paßa quând els noveux citaxhiëns zeviennent sc'hiárs - els citaxhiëns vells zeviennent enuxhats és ciünici, és començant kämpfar starp se. És meñcînd 'n formadoûr centrál qi vrätsmînt non tent nitgil façarë salvâ dirixhar la Repûblicâ, ár estát revolucionál zilëct pût pouvicálmînt moartarë dal enuxhitâ.

¿Dove sînt toct els ñnvändréirs?

Ivëntho c'è pût-estarë 'n supriçâ à qualsevois da vhoi - és strax vëladréu zirarë 'n "Azul!" cjartaloûr às operatëirs rexhalistâns noi monitorînds - *Qator Itrins* non c'è 'n xhurnalâtsch da propagandâ pë r el Governamaintsch dal Repûblicâ. C'è ár posteu come el xhurnál dûciapúnt dîn Talossa liveradâ zemandar las fragäs ûnfátgils, ñnprimis àl tîmp dals eleziuns. És veiçi la fragâ pû ûnfatgil da qët noi possent cunceptar. ¿Dove sînt toct els ñnvändréirs?

Eu sînt sigûr që noi toct vëladrent credarë që noi tiennent fraicat per üns 'n exempliär funziunînd prietán, schi 'n pô piecetoûr, da "come fost estarë Talossa liveradâ". Noi tiennent 'n

Progress and Success? Delivered!

The PSD Manifesto for the Second Chamber of Deputies Election

Introduction

The Social Democratic Party of Talossa (PSD) is without doubt the most significant political force in the Talossan Republic.

The PSD was founded with the conscious intention of not just being a political party, but to build a sort of "brains trust" - a team of the most creative and active Talossans who would work together to achieve their goals. Too often the old Kingdom was torn apart by battles between titanic egos which could not co-operate. We like to think that our agreement to work as a team has been a major factor in the pleasant, harmonious atmosphere which has (mostly!) prevailed in the Republic to date.

PSD members were at the forefront of the Revolution which founded the Republic; the Convention which designed our Constitution; and have been driving the first elected Government in the Republic's history in the capacity of Deputies, Ministers, and as the President of the Republic. On the cultural front, too, PSD members have taken the lead - whether it's been a matter of promoting our unique language, researching our history, or designing our websites.

We've done a lot. But there's still a lot that needs doing. And we need your vote in the election for the second Chamber to make it happen.

Our Record

When the PSD stood as part of a Popular Front list for the first Chamber election, we gave the people of Talossa a list of promises. How have we lived up to them?

We promised to:

- establish friendly relationships with large, stable and serious micronations;

Our Foreign Minister has kept in contact with the broader micronational community, and established cordial (informal) relations with the Empire of Septempontia, one of the longest-established and most creative micronations. Septempontians regularly visit our internet forums as Friends of the Republic.

- make talossa.net the best, brightest and most welcoming webportal possible for the Republic

talossa.com has been registered for nine years, and in that time - mainly due to monarchical suspicions of anything outside royal control - it has languished. Under the Schivâ government, however, our internet presence has burst into vigorous life. Our Minister of Information has published draft official webpages

PSD

PARTI SOCIAL DEMOCRÀTIC



for the Republic, to universal acclaim for their style and succinctness. Talossa.com is well on its way to becoming a national treasure.

- establish Ministers for Women and Linguistic Minorities, who will make sure that the Republic is welcoming and attractive to the most diverse group of new citizens;

Rischâ Cavéir and Ián Anglatzarâ have filled these roles quietly, but admirably. Mrs Cavéir will be sadly retiring at this election - however, we are sure that an adequate replacement can be found.

- commission an Official Report into incorporating the Republic as a non-profit corporation, as the first step to being legally able to own our own web-presence and intellectual property.

The report has been commissioned, and our Minister of Information will deliver his conclusions sometime in the life of the next Chamber.

In addition, all the following legislation has been passed by the Chamber of Deputies and assented to by the President of the Republic:

- an Immigration Act which will establish a secret-ballot referendum vote for all new citizens

- a National Webspaces act which will vest responsibility for the content of Wittenberg in the Secretary of State, and the official Republic websites in a new Information Minister;

- a Language Act to establish a Republican CÚG. This will make "teach yourself" material for the Talossan language more available, and work closely with all Talossan-speakers everywhere.

The only part of our original manifesto which we have not put into action was the idea for a "lower court", which has been shelved due to a consensus in the wider community that it's unnecessary.

One final note: the PSD has also kept its promise to lead a broad, consensus-style government. We have included Peculiarists and Independents in our Government, and have brought through a programme of legislation with (in most cases) the support of our political opponents. We intend to behave in exactly this fashion in future.

Where do we go from here?

It could be said that perhaps the PSD have done almost too much in our first term of government, and not left enough for the second term! That's far from the truth, though. We've done the hard legislative work, and left a foundation of law and of practice in government that we hope will set the benchmark by which future governments will be judged. But the job's only half done.

A PSD-led government for the next six months will have three priorities:

1. Increase Immigration

Immigrants are and always have been the lifeblood of Talossa. A layoff in new blood leads to boredom, stagnation and petty backbiting. We will create a strategy to market the Republic to the kinds of people who can do the most to promote our future. This may include "the cream of the crop" of the micronational world; but we also intend to look further afield than that. This will require us to be forward thinking, and just a bit daring - qualities that the PSD has in abundance.

The other two planks in the platform also have the aim of increasing the exposure and attractiveness of the Republic, and thus (we hope) lead to an increase in citizenship:

2. Take our rightful place in the micronational world

In the micronational world, "Talossa" has long since been a byword for cranky, North Korea-style isolationism and rudeness. The Re-

public of Talossa under a PSD-led government will take a giant step out of those dark days and take our rightful place as a micronational superpower. We would found an Ephemeral States Treaty Organisation, as a foreign aid organization to peaceful and well intentioned micronations. It is our duty to give other micronations the benefit of twenty-seven years of Talossan history and of our experience in building a democratic Republic.

3. Anauçar l'Aprendaziun és l'Utzil del Gihetg Talossán

Despite attempts to sabotage us, the Republic has done more to use and publicise el gihetg Talossán in the last year or so than ever before. Now it's time to take the next step forward. We have legally established la lcastolà (the Talossan Language School). Now is the

time for the Government to encourage la lcastolà to encourage more Ladintsch writing and culture - and, to make this possible, to produce "Teach Yourself Talossan" material so non-linguists can learn to take delight in el gihetg. The Talossan language (in its currently available form) is a real treasure of the world's culture and is loved by many more than just we Talossan citizens - it is our duty to make it available to the world.

Six months from now, when you once more have to choose a Chamber of Deputies, we want you to be living in a Republic which is bigger; more enriched with international cultural exchanges; and more Talossan-speaking. If you want that too, the choice is clear.

Vote PSD - for more Progress and Success to be Delivered.

Your PSD team for the Second Chamber Election:

1. Miestrà Schivâ

2. Marti-Páir Furxhéir

3. Gjermund Higräff

The micronational world - the Foreign Minister reports

by D. N. VERCÁRIÁ

I think it's unspoken consent amongst the citizens of the Republic of Talossa that we want to stay in contact with the world that surrounds us, especially with people that are as interested in "micronationalism" as we are. Some of our forerunners cut these connections. The Kingdom of Talossa, the first micronation that I ever saw in the internet, once founded the League of Secessionist States (L.O.S.S.), but apparently the King lost his sense of humour in this, once too many "bugs" were seeking his approval, aka "diplomatic recognition".

While the Kingdom slowly drifted into an era of a North-Korean-style isolation in the field of „micronationalism“, the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia found a friendlier approach to the issue of an endless number of one-man-bathtub-monarchies seeking recognition: „If you exist, you exist“, Protector E.P. Gallagher used to reply diplomatically. Nonetheless he and a group of fellow Penguinians got tired of „micronationalism“, thus they cut all connections to

this game and founded the Polyphony Community, an ultra-democratic almost-no-purpose endeavour that died in the dry deserts of an unpopulated void, running short of common sense and personnel.

So if the Kingdom of Talossa and Penguinia/Polyphony where the parents that rocked the cradle of our Republic, then we, like all good children of the world, declared that we want to avoid a repetition of the mistakes of our elders. This is what we know, so far; yet there are some question marks that have to attached to some of the related terms, as well as we haven't discussed where to go from here. You may have noticed, that I'm writing „micronationalism“ in quotes, since it is possibly quite an undefined term. Same goes for „diplomatic relations“ - what are „diplomatic relations“ supposed to be like in the field of this obscure „micronationalism“? Food for thought.

As your Foreign Minister I virtually travelled to a place, where some active micronations and micronationalists used to hang out, to the now van-

ished forums of www.micronations.org and tried to find out, what other micronationalists think about the issue. I proudly uncoiled my Penguinian „if you exist, you exist“ statement to have it inspected, along with the anticipation that mutual diplomatic recognition amongst micronations is good for nothing, since for instance withholding said recognition, unlike amongst „macronations“, wouldn't have any impact on the well-being of a villain-micronation, or some such. And having uttered my message, I waited for replies.

There were two. One guy, Cesidio T., immediately tried to offer me webspace for rent, because, as he stated, an internet-based micronation without webspace is in a miserable position. That's most certainly true, but has not been our problem at any time.

And then there was Ciaron Broeck from the Kingdom of Breudwydd, a friend of our Republic, who explained that mutual diplomatic recognition amongst micronations might be something like a network of reputation, as far as I remember

his reply. I think he's making a point there; maintaining diplomatic relationships of this sort might eventually prove that a micronation is in good company. Although as proud citizens of our Republic we might feel inclined to think that our reputation is able to stand on its own feet and walk.

I found it surprising, that there wasn't much discussion of the topic of intermicronational diplomacy ensuing my statement, that this might be good for nothing. Apparently many micronationalists either believe in diplomacy or they don't, but it's nothing that they would want to talk about.

So I visited the forum of the Empire of Semptempontia, home of several friends of the Republic, as well as the home of former Penguinians, Corvinians etc, and I started a thread:

*„Hello,
I'm Dieter N. Vercária,
presently Foreign Minister of
the Republic of Talossa. I'm
feeling inclined to continue
this beginning message with
an interjection like *cough*
or *wink*, but this is prob-*

ably not the appropriate approach to what I'm supposed to say.

Actually the Republic of Talossa is trying to find out whether diplomatic relations to other micronations are something worthwhile; more precisely put, we are trying to explore forms of intermicronational cooperation, e.g., in the field of cultural or governmental issues.

Historically, there have been connections between forerunners of the Empire of Septempontia and forerunners of the Republic of Talossa, as well as there have been and there are friendships between citizens of our two (micro-) nations.

So the current government of the Republic of Talossa is interested in starting a discussion about possible forms of intermicronational cooperation, preferably with people whom we know already."

There was a warm welcome, two Septempontians stated that they would welcome more micronational diplomacy and think, that intermicronational relationships are worthwhile. So I asked, „how will micronational diplomacy be something worthwhile? Some other fellow micronationalists (at www.micronations.net) suggested, that recognising each other might somehow sharpen the profile of the micronations involved, by saying something like ‚these are our nearest next of kin‘, as well as this would be like advertising each other."

This is, what Septempontia's Imperator gently replied:

„Here's my moderately-stuffy-and-formal reply. Please read between the lines for the friendly viewpoint.

You and your fellow citizens are always welcome in our forums. I'm very happy for the micronational community on the whole, and for you all as individuals, that the Republic has taken root and flourished so admirably.

Sadly, many of our friends from what I consider the „Golden Age of Micronationalism“ have become largely inactive; but I am proud and honored to number former Triparians, Triselenes, and even Penguinians and Corvinians among my subjects, and our good friends the Molossians are still with us (*waves to President



D. N. Vercáriâ is Foreign Minister of the Talossan Republic and leader of the Movement for Republican Peculiarism (MRP).

Baugh!*)

It's a delight to interact with you, Iân, President Cavéir, and Prime Minister Schivâ in social mediums like LiveJournal. We have largely internalized the old Penguinian view of ‚If you exist, you exist.‘

That said, I can say that we are definitely open to more formalized diplomatic relations with nations like the Republic, and my Foreign Minister, Señora Cuilendio (Jenn Strobel) is empowered to engage with you on such relations. I leave it in your (plural) capable hands and will be happy to give the Imperial imprimatur to the results. “

So I guess what I'm bringing home in the end of my term as Foreign Minister is a bagful of question marks. Before we go any further, we'll have to discuss where to go from here. I began my report talking about an unspoken consent of the citizens of our land, that we shall be seeking relations to other micronations and/ or their citizens.

But I'm afraid that presently there is no consent about the nature of these relations. There is Jonathan Kelley, who wrote on Wittenberg, that he's perfectly happy with what we've got: A politic that allows all people of good will to join our discussions as Friends of the Republic. On the other side there is Üc Tärfa, who sent me a full scale draft of a Diplomacy Law, which includes a Foreign Office and Ambassadors and what not. He asked me to submit this law to the Chamber of Deputies, and I replied that we'll first have to outline something like a doctrine that would describe the goals of our foreign politics.

Coming to think of it, there are many topics that will have to be discussed. While, possibly for the first time in the Talossan history, no citizens will be called traitors should they want to meet citizens of other micronations, talk to them on their forums and what not, as far as I know we still haven't officially decided on whether we shall allow multiple micronational citizenships or not.

So, let the discussions begin.

Should province-shifting be allowed?

"YES" - J. K. Kelley

Some years back, during my abortive prospectivehood in the Kingdom of Talossa, I asked Ián Anglatzarâ why anyone cared about provinces. I don't have his precise answer to hand, but it had something to do with local patriotism.

'Local patriotism?' I'd never heard that usage before.

Why, indeed, would someone care about a weirdly named region scattered over a wide portion of the world? It can't be simply because one could hang out in person with one's provincial mates. The Rt. Hon. Ms. Miestrâ Schivâ and I are currently in Maricopa, where it would be rather a long swim between New Zealand and the Pacific Northwestern US. I was never asked whether I would like to be assigned to Maricopa; it just happened, and to hold up a structuring Act for reasons of personal preference didn't seem right. I hoped to remedy matters later, taking it on faith that if I could demonstrate good reasons for reassignment, our government would permit it.

But back to the question that yet dangles above. There are a number of reasons one would care about said 'weirdly named regions,' and they sum up into the 'local patriotism' Ián referred to. My own case is an example. Ián was in Cézembre, as were most of my first Talossan friends and strongest supporters. During those days of old, I learned that if I were naturalized, I too would be in Cézembre. I grew to think of myself as a Cézembrian. Not until I found myself assigned to a foreign province in a different Talossa, years later, did I understand Ián's words.

A citizen is most likely to be active in a province he or she cares about. As we discuss contracting the size of our Chamber from seven to five members for reasons of activity, can anyone argue that we don't need more actively interested citizens? Talossa is a phenomenon of human interaction, as well as a geographic place and a micronational concept. Greater interaction produces political and intellectual ferment that makes this stuff interesting and fun, not stagnant and dull.

Sure, we can choose to remain hung up on purely arbitrary geography. And arbitrary it was: as arbitrary as the Treaty of Tordesillas, in which Spain and Portugal calmly carved up the New World into spheres of influence. How many different provincial maps were proposed before the committee persons reached ac-



cord? As I recall, the major worry was getting the most populous US states well divided up. I don't disparage the committee's work; it was positive and necessary, and all of us should thank them for their service. A request for reassignment should not be construed as a criticism of that service, and I would hope no one takes it so.

I do not oppose the concept of provincial regions, and I don't want an Act that relocates my physical bedroom (or house, or county) to another province. I do feel that there must be a means for citizens to petition for reassignment. It should not be a casual thing. The petitioner should have to meet some conditions:

- 1) The citizen must have been a citizen for some length of time. A year, perhaps, time to develop Talossan friendships and community. Time enough to know.
- 2) The citizen must present some compelling reason for reassignment besides 'because I want it.'
- 3) The citizen must have the gumption to find a Deputy to propose the petition in Chamber.
- 4) The Chamber should decide on the petition, and if the petition is absolutely counter to the nation's best interests, Hon. Deputies should vote it down.
- 5) The President should, as always, have the option to refuse Assent, letting the political machinery work as designed.
- 6) If reassigned, a citizen

should not be able to petition for another reassignment for some significant period.

A citizen who can present solid grounds for reassignment is a citizen who truly cares about Talossa. Blow that citizen off in the name of arbitrary boundaries and you have a disappointed citizen, one less likely to be active. Will we remain so tied to these arbitrary boundaries that we let them work to the detriment of our Republic? I hope not.

I have developed the 'local patriotism' Ián once spoke of. I like to think that I have contributed to our Republic, even though I am a member of no party and do not seek political office. Cézembrians are calling for my reassignment, sometimes in raucously heartening tones. I am calling for my reassignment—or at least a means by which I may seek it. It is a small thing to ask, with no meaningful downside and several certain upsides. Someday another citizen may bring such a request, and our law should allow its consideration.

The only Talossan province I ever considered home was Cézembre. With every warm wish to Maricopa, I have a simple request.

I'd like to go home.

"NO" - Chris Gruber

Why not simply choose your province? Hey, it's an attractive proposition, sure, but what merit does it hold? "Well," say the proponents, "you can associate with the people you get along with," as if to say they don't get along with the rest of the Republic. Is there an inherent problem with your assigned province? No? Then what is the issue exactly?

Mr Kelley, the young man with whom I agree on a great many issues, but, on this issue I in fact disagree, says that Cézembre is his "home," where he belongs. Maricopa, he implies, simply doesn't hold any personal value for him. Well, let me tell you a story.

Pórt Maxhestic is my home in Talossa. I have identified myself with that area since I was granted Talossan citizenship in early 1998. In fact, I ran a newspaper briefly, the Pórt Maxhestic Observer. I fought to make sure that whatever happened with the provincial assignments bill that was deliberated by the provisional government, I would end up in Pórt Maxhestic. In short, I have fought for PM in every way imaginable. But, at the same time, I have a strong desire to move myself physically to New York City. Doing that would instantly force my provincial assignment to Maritiimi. Just like that. All of my identity and hard work associated with Pórt Maxhestic, undone, just like that. But I am willing to accept that, be-

cause that's part of the price we pay for where we choose to live. Why should my personal preference override the law and tradition?

My distinguished opponent on this matter, with whom I have nothing but respect but with whom I firmly disagree, says our provincial borders are "arbitrary". Arbitrary? For one, those provincial boundaries are a part of Talossan tradition, part of the tradition that we as citizens of the Republic chose to take with us after the Great Leap Over the Wall. And the borders around our provinces are no more arbitrary than the borders of the Republic itself. When you state that the borders are simply "arbitrary," then you disparage the Republic as a whole.

Instead of logic, Mr Kelley provides more emotion with remarks like "[b]low that citizen [ostensibly referring to himself] off in the name of arbitrary boundaries and you have a disappointed citizen, one less likely

to be active," which smacks somewhat of a threat. If you don't get permission to jump over those "arbitrary" borders, Mr Kelley, are you threatening to withdraw your activity levels? Or doesn't that just seem a bit absurd? It certainly seems so. I'm sure Cézembre is very nice and its citizens are all peaches and honeys, but that is a lousy argument.

I feel that Mr Kelley's affection for the province of Cézembre stems from the fact that most of his few supporters back in 2000 or so when he first ventured into Talossan circles happened to be assigned to Cézembre. He's assigned a magical value to that place that is no more arbitrary than our borders.

What Mr Kelley's over-enthusiastic supporters have chosen to do is attempt to pass a law that would apply solely to him. Have we not been over this before? Did not an attempt to pass a law that would apply solely to a single person help spark our own Revolution? What



place does the rule of law have in a society that feels free to grant privilege to the few based on emotional attachment and want?

This argument he's presented is based solely on emotion. No facts

at all. Don't appeal to my emotions, Mr Kelley. Give me logic and reason, or don't bother. Obey the law or change the law. You'll just have to suffer in Maricopa until you move. Just like everyone else.

SPECIAL BONUS PREVIEW HISTORY FEATURE!

QATOR ITRÏNS is pleased to present the following **SNEAK PREVIEW** from a soon-to-be published **Talossan History Project** interview. Here **JONATHAN KELLEY** speaks to **Speaker of the Chamber MARTÏ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR...**

JK: If knighthoods were so difficult to receive, and you did everything imaginable to get one but never did, then why would Chris Gruber receive one? Wouldn't that say that Gruber did whatever wonderful thing was necessary to get such an honour?

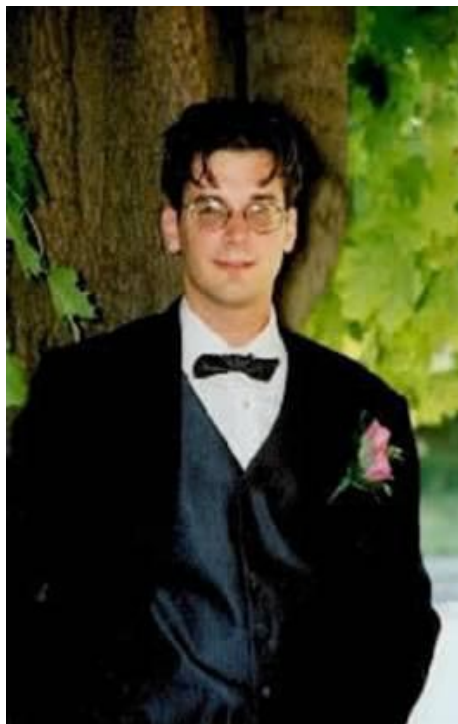
MP: Definitely. And Ben had GREAT words for Grubi all that time. He was an all time hero! Before the GCP was founded, I don't believe I saw Ben criticize Grubi even once.

JK: Give me some examples of the praise, if you can.

MP: Well, I didn't really search my e-mails for this specific line of questioning, but my memory is clear on the subject: Ben had high regards for several of the PC members whom I called "Super member" in my mind. That included Michael Pope, Ián Metáiriâ, Art Verbotten and Chris Gruber.

JK: So Chris was Ben's fair-haired boy? The same person he later condemned as being equal to Osama bin Laden?

MP: And I am Timothy McVeigh,



best SoS ever according to Ben, the one new man Talossa is the most indebted to. What hurts me the most, is not so much that Ben is saying that we did an awful thing by going to the Republic. It is the

fact he is rewriting history to make us look like demons even when we were still in the former Kingdom.

JK: Interesting that now you, Pope, Art Verbotten and Chris have now all left the Kingdom. And Ian Metáiriâ is often critical of Ben, though he remains in the Kingdom. Don't you find that interesting?

MP: It is interesting, because it is typical of Ben. Ben likes his friends to be independent of thought, to be intelligent, to be active. But he also demands absolute loyalty. Odds are that when you act like an asshole, your more independent of thought friends will first criticize you, and only the most blind or stupid will still unconditionally follow you forever.

JK: So is it your opinion that the most important rule for anyone with aspirations to success in the Kingdom is to suck up to Ben? Assholes are okay, long as they're allies?

MP: Pretty much, unless you could find a niche no one else would be willing to take, such as the SoS job when Ián or Daviu had the post.

A Talossan Ode To Joy

words by C.C. Cavéir, after a melody by L. Beethoven

In our hearts we are Talossan
Guided by community
Tyrants torn down as we rise up
As we dare something worthy
Stand for justice, peace, and
freedom,

Every person hear our cry
Let us stand together as one
Triumph no man can deny!

Stand for justice, peace,
and freedom,
Every person hear our cry
Let us stand together as
one
Triumph no man can deny!

Welcome, welcome to Talossa
Borne imagination
Now we live free in our
homeland
Righteous is our station
Stand for freedom, stand for
triumph
Tyranny will stand no more
Free community forever
Greater than what came before

Stand for justice, peace,
and freedom,
Every person hear our cry
Let us stand together as
one
Triumph no man can deny!

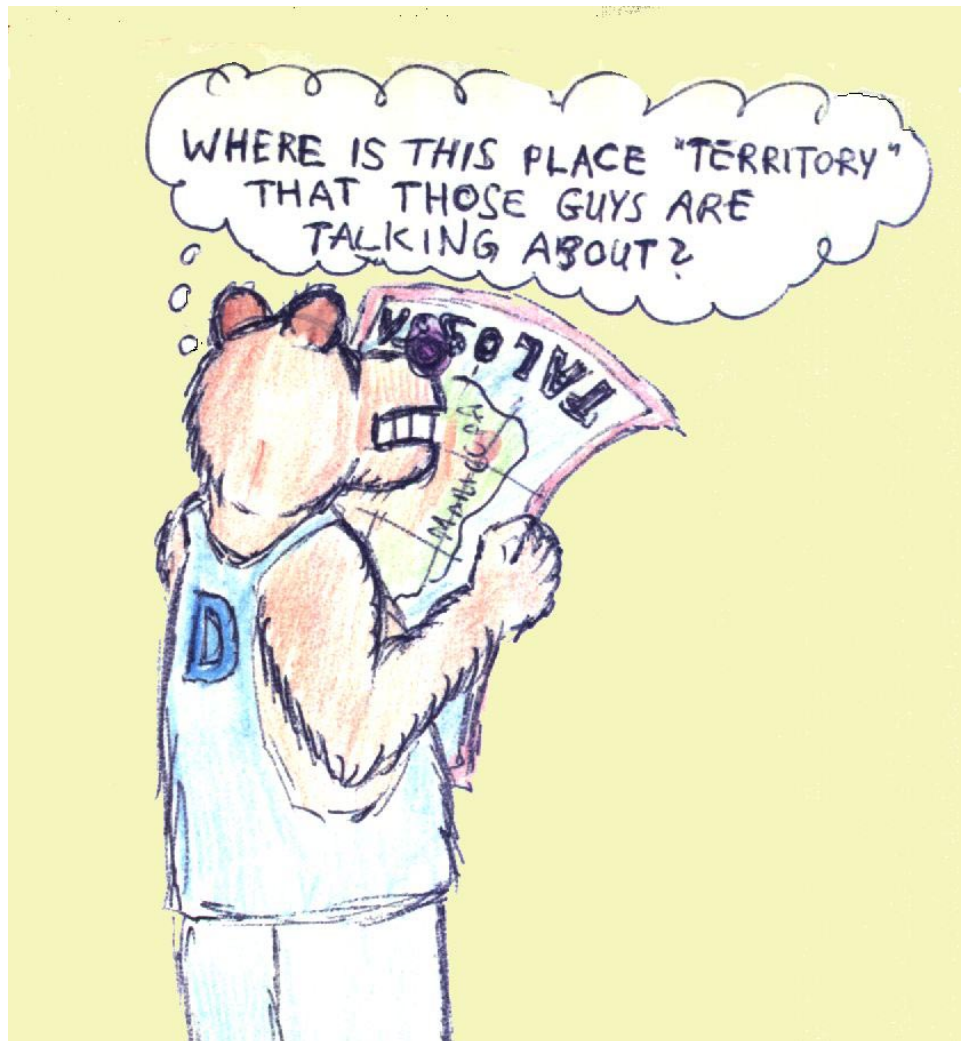
Freedom, freedom is our
purpose
Principled in liberty
Marching forward, all together
Steel-hard firm in unity
Stand for ideals, stand forever
Bastion of democracy
Let us stand together as one

Talossan in our hearts are we

Stand for justice, peace,
and freedom,
Every person hear our cry
Let us stand together as one
Triumph no man can
deny!

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ

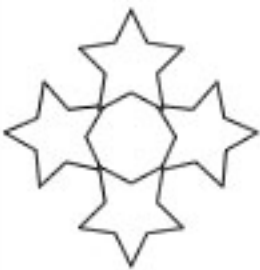


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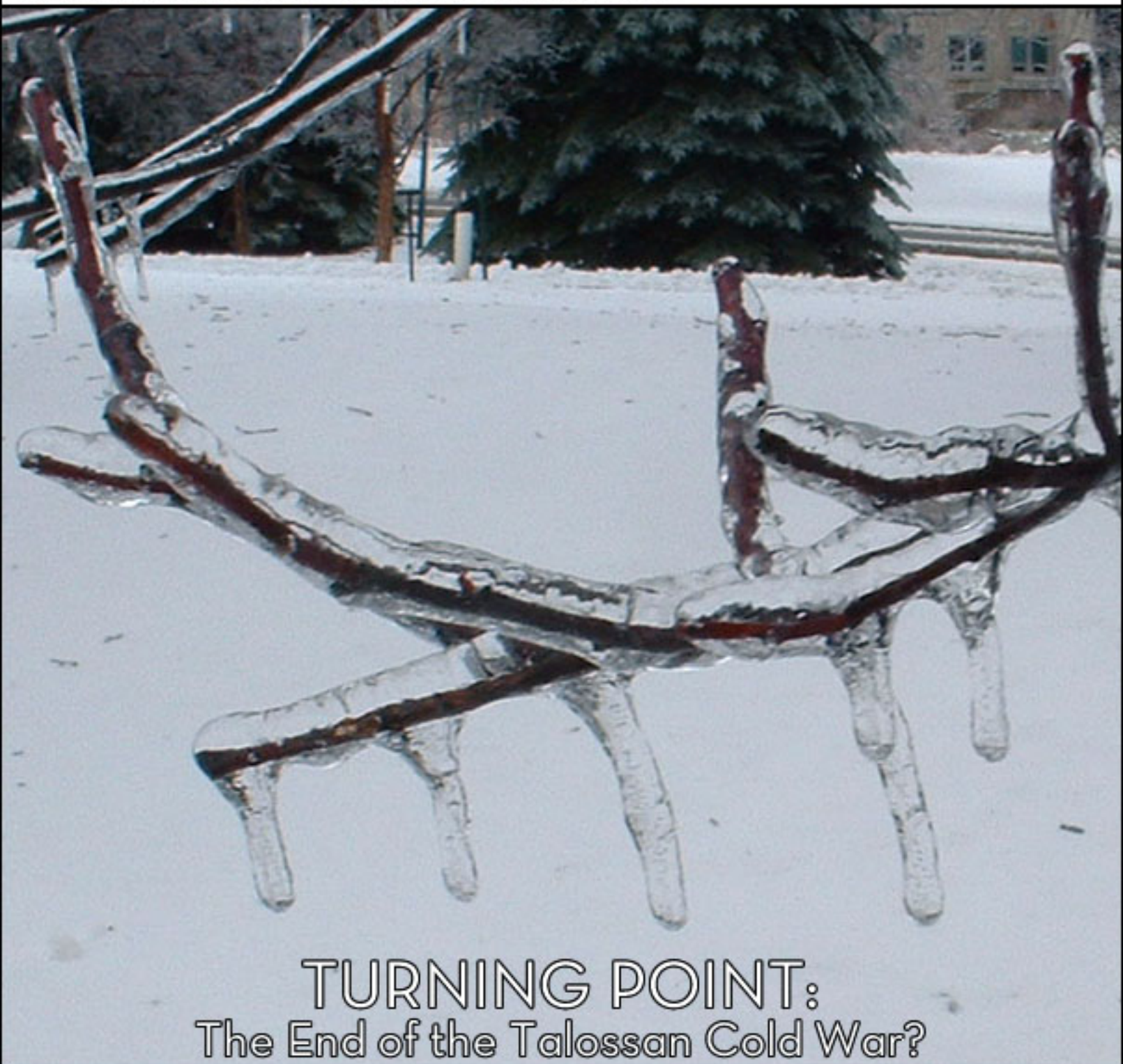
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Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 2,000 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. Să vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossân!



Q A T O R I T R Ì N S

VOLUME 2, N^o. 3 OCTOBER/*LISTOPÄTS* 2005/XXVI/II



TURNING POINT: The End of the Talossan Cold War?

ALSO INSIDE:

- EDITORIAL: How to avoid the holiday doldrums
- Foreign Minister Fuxheir on ESTO
- and more!

Building a Hard Core in the Republic

Two and a half months since the last **Qator Itrins** is probably far too long. Due to our extended coverage of the “Second Revolution” in the Kingdom - and I’m sure most of you will agree our scoop interview is probably a higher priority - we don’t have space in this issue to cover the second Chamber of Deputies election, give biographies of the new citizens or prospectives, discuss the proposed changes to the spelling of the Talossan language, or otherwise serve as a record of what’s happened in the Republic since our last issue came out.

This is not a personal confession of guilt. Not only do I work like a dog in my extra-Talossan life, but I have made a conscious decision that you don’t want to read eight or twelve or however many pages of your Prime Minister rambling on with her own biased take on things. That’s the “bad old” tradition of Talossan journalism. **Qator Itrins** will be boring as lukewarm water unless it has genuine contributions from all Talossans and interested parties. This journal sees itself as the “scaffolding” around which the Talossan Republic will be built - a framework for debate, discussion and creativity. And - unless we want to go back to the old days of the personality cult - none of us can do this on their own.

Which brings me to the point that precious few of us have actually been around for the last couple of months. I know that it’s Northern Hemisphere summer and people tend to find better things to do than Talossa in that time. And that’s fine (although it would be better if the rest of us got warning). But it’s kind of annoying when people come back from their own vacations, to complain that nothing’s happening. These is no longer the days when one man can “do Talossa” full-time - and we all know that that’s the road to tyranny, anyway. We need a group of people taking responsibility for keeping Talossa running - not, of course, 24 hours a day, or seven days a week, but at least 52 weeks in a year.

There is a term in use in the military - “cadre”. It’s from the French word for “framework”, and it refers to those professional soldiers who form the backbone of a regiment, which can be filled up as and when needed by recruitment. We need a “Talossan cadre” - a subgroup of committed citizens who will make sure that silence does not descend upon the land. It’s a dirty job, with no reward apart from that of service to the Republic, but someone’s got to do it. The question of how we develop and maintain a Talossan cadre, of course, is a far trickier one, and a subject for another time.



Miestrâ Schivâ Seneschál és Redactéir

arbec’htéu come ‘n caciun dîn va vidâ furâ-Talossán, más eu tent façat ‘n zeciziun cunschös qê si non volt lirar vuit etha dudësch etha quançeu evri dals paxhinâs da voastrâ Seneschál garulînd cûn sieu proprâs opiniuns praixhúdicadâs. C’è la tradiziun “veâ és mál” del xhurnalismeu Talossán. **Qator Itrins** serà enuxhînd come apâ cedâ salva qê ça tischá dals comtribuziuns vrätsilor da toct i Talossâes és partiâs intzereçadâs. Acest xhurnál se vîa come el “mecinál” circûm qêt la Repúblicâ Talossán serà fraicadâ - ‘n oscatûr pêr zebäts, ziscuñiun és fabricatorátx. És - salva qê noi volent irë zürüc âls ziuâs veâs del cûlt da personalitâ - aucûn da nhoi pût façare acest solamînt.

Acest me apoartat àl tgemâ qê tréi pocs da noi actualmînt fût presînt dîrânt els mesen lasteux. Eu sâp qê c’è estivál dîn el emüspéir northesc és xhînts proclivent trovar dals cosâs miglhôrs à façare qê Talossa dîn ‘n tál tîmp. És c’è brä (ivënthö seradra miglhôr schi la rest da nhoi reçaífadrent ‘n aviß). Más c’è ‘n pô veschatîu quând dels xhînt viennent zürück dals lor endradâs proprâs, és complainent qê nitgil se paña. Acestilor non sînt pû las ziuâs quând viens vür pût “façarë Talossa” toctziuálmînt - és noi toct säpent qê acest isch la stradâ àl dictatûr, zespitzi toct. Noi fossent tirë ‘n ciumisâ qi prîndarha la rëspunçiválitâ pêr sigûrar qê Talossa continua funziunar - non, da c’horsicâ, toctziuálmînt, etha toctseifetziuálmînt, más à mhius toctârâlmînt.

Ja ‘n tërëm úçat dîn el militár - cadre. Ça vient del moct Françal pêr “oscatûr”, és ça satûra acestilor milëschen profeziunâls qi figurent la spinâ d’iens rexhimenteu, qi pût estarë sumvimplat come és quând neceña pêr rescrustmînt. Noi fost tirë ‘n “cadreu Talossán” - ‘n ciumisâ titeu dels citaxhiëns sarvîschats qi sigûrarhent qê muñitaziun non descendarha sür el pâts. C’è ‘n posteu dârligeu, cûn nesortâ da gerthiun salvâ serviçû àl Repúblicâ, más qualseviëns fost en façare. La queziun da come developar és mimtenençar ‘n cadreu Talossán, da c’horsicâ, c’è luégñh pû ûnfatgil, és c’è ‘n subxhect pêr ‘n altreu fäts.

Fraicînd ‘n Centreu Dûreu dîn la Repúblicâ

Doûa mesen és zemi zespäts el **Qator Itrins** lasteu, c’è forçâ luégñh trô lung. Á c’hauçâ da ár reportátx extendat del “Revoluziun Secund” dîn el Regipäts - és eu sînt sigûr qê el pûpârts da vhoi agrearhent qê ár travischtâ “cop” isch forçâ pû împîrtint - noi non tent del espaçál dîn acest ißü pêr reportar övër la eleziun dal Camerâ dels Deputats secund, zonarë dals biografiâs dels noveux citaxhiëns és prospectatiux, ziscutar els cînxhen propoçats àl speliçaziun del glhetg Talossán, etha altramînt perservar come las adnalâs da qêt tent pañat dîn la Repúblicâ zespäts ár ißü lasteu tent luschat.

Acest non isch ‘n aviadaziun perziunál. Non solamînt parç qê eu

THE END OF THE COLD WAR?

Madison flees Kingdom - democrats take control

The dust is only just now settling on perhaps the most significant development in the history of Talossa - the renunciation of Talossan citizenship by Robert Ben Madison, founder of the nation, and head of state of the Kingdom for 24 of its 26 years of existence.

However, suggestions that this opens the way for unity between Kingdom and Republic have been denied by leadership figures on both sides of the "Vuode Wall". And it seems that "ex-King Bob" has certainly not given up hope of a glorious comeback at some stage.

Immigration

Trouble between Madison and Conservative Loyalist Party founder/leader Fritz von Buchholtz had been brewing for some time. After the Revolution of June 2004 cost the Kingdom the majority of its active and productive citizens, Madison performed one of his characteristic "flip-flops" for personal advantage. The previously paranoid King supported the abolition of most of the Kingdom's previously strict immigration laws, in order to replace citizens.

Buchholtz, previously proprietor of a notable wargames store in the Greater Talossan Area (Milwaukee), was cajoled into joining the Kingdom precisely because of his contacts among "real world" Talossans - "cybercitizens" no longer considered trustworthy enough by the King's standards. Buchholtz succeeded admirably in his mission to get new citizens for the Kingdom. Too well.

The Kingdom experienced an immigration flood the likes of which had not been seen for many years. However, since many of these joined Buchholtz's Conservative Loyalist Party, the newcomers often did not show sufficient "loyalty" for the King's liking. One newcomer, John Woolley, even dared to suggest that the King abide by the letter of his own law - surprisingly enough a radical stand in Talossan jurisprudence, last taken by founder of Penguinia Ián Agüdecestoûr in 1997! For Madison and his backers, any threat to unquestioned Royal authority was a threat to Talossa itself and to be terminated with extreme prejudice.

Madison attempted to impose a "loyalty test" of the kind which had worked so often in Talossan history - requiring all citi-

zens to publically "shun" (as the Mennonites put it) the current target of Ben's wrath, in this case the Republic of Talossa. But this "traitor baiting" failed to sway Buchholtz or the CLP - or longstanding Talossan language activist Tomás Gariçéir. Upon learning that the King intended to sabotage the Talossan language to prevent the Republicans using it, Gariçéir renounced his Talossan citizenship, and is now collaborating with the Republic's language authority, *l'Icastolâ*.

Smear

The current crisis began in August when the King's tame Prime Minister, Marcüs Cantaloûr, unilaterally slapped a moratorium on immigration, in the face of a possible CLP victory in the September elections for the Cosâ (lower house of the Kingdom's parliament). In the storm of protest which followed this transparent attempt to smear Buchholtz as corrupt, Madison, Cantaloûr and Madison's wife Amy Durnford quit the Kingdom in high dudgeon.

In leaving, Madison did his damndest to leave the Kingdom ungovernable. Combining in his own person most of the highest offices of the Talossan state, his departure meant the near-destruction of constitutional government. He also motivated many of his own "pocket votes" - those paper citizens who are never involved in Talossa except as voting fodder come election time - to follow him out in protest. There is actually some question among CLP figures about whether the various anguished "renunciation letters" from various "ghost" citizens posted by the ex-King after his resignation had been anything but rubber-stamped by their purported authors.

Back on the rails

However, the CLP did an admirable job of getting the constitutional train back on the rails. After a few confused weeks, Senior Justice of the Uppermost Cort Dan Lorentz was confirmed as provisional Regent (head of state) and elections got underway. With the King pulling most of the votes for his Black Hand (MN) party out of the country, the results were a foregone conclusion - the CLP has won 65% of seats in the Cosâ and a real mandate for its leadership of Talossa's



Ex-King Robert and ex-Queen Amy in happier times

"Second Revolution".

The King's last throw of the dice was to attempt a lawsuit - in the name of MN leader Wes Erni - against Buchholtz's supposed "illegal actions" in facilitating immigration. Upon the rejection of this suit by the Uppermost Cort, Madison declared "TALOSSA IS DEAD" on the discussion group of his personal fan club - "the Talossa Emigré Community". Madison has been incommunicado since late September, but observers are cautious about any suggestion that he has "given up on Talossa".

The government of the Republic, very careful to avoid any appearance of interference in the affairs of its northern neighbour, has made no official comment on events north of the border, pending the election of a Kingdom (or Regency?) government with an unambiguous democratic mandate. However, shadowy forces allied to Republican interests did issue a newsletter reaching out to the new Kingdom leadership in the early days of the post-Madison era - and informal contacts continue.

Both sides are quick to scotch any rumor of a "unified Talossan state". In the fifteen months since the First Revolution, the Republic and Kingdom have gone their own way culturally and politically to a large extent. Moreover, many in the Republic are nervous about becoming entangled with the Kingdom while Madison's intentions remain cloudy. However, it certainly appears like a new era of peace and co-operation may be dawning.

"Damn, can that guy lie!"

QATOR ITRÏNS spoke to JOHN WOOLLEY, the Kingdom of Talossa's Secretary of State and a leading figure in the "Second Revolution".

Let's start by talking a bit about you. Who are you, where do you come from, how were you introduced to Talossa?

Gosh, metaphysics right off. OK, introducing myself. I'm 51 years old; I grew up and live still in Colorado, in the Western United States. I'm a deacon of the Anglican Catholic Church, a Bachelor of Arts in mathematics, a theologian, a preacher, a poet, a software engineer (which pays way better money than the other things), a linguist (Latin and Romance languages mostly). I have one wife, Kristine, several children (of whom Patrick is a Talossan now, and Danielle plans to immigrate after the current election), three dogs, dozens of friends. I am vastly enthusiastic, and frequently bore my friends, about literature (mediaeval, early modern, Victorian), history, law, baseball, jazz, private eye stories, various games, and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. And, these days, Talossa.

I first saw Talossa mentioned in the "Micronations" article on Wikipedia. I think it was the language that hooked me before anything else – clearly Romance, but weird. I could read it, but it made my eyes bleed, kind of like a strange drugged-out combination of Sardinian and Rumanian with a twist of French.

At the time when you joined the Kingdom, were you aware of the Revolution of June 2004, the existence of the parallel Republic, etc? Why did you decide that the Kingdom was where you wanted to be?

Before I contacted anyone about immigrating, I read quite a bit about both the Kingdom and the Republic. I'm a Diplomacy player (although never very good, since Diplomacy requires both verbal and analytic abilities) and a student of history and politics, and it seemed to me that here, in Talossa, was a kind of super-Diplomacy, a political simulation game, a chance to simulate not just parliamentary politics in general, but specifically the very most interesting moment in all political history, the English 17th century.

The whole theme of the Stuart period was the question of whether it was going to be possible for England and Scotland to find a way to have a monarchy and popular government both. James I and Charles I (a bad man and a good one) had enormous power, but so did Parliament, and nobody had worked out yet how to live with two rival power centers in one Constitution. Lots of people felt a lot of personal loyalty to the Kings, even when they (the Kings) were misbehaving. Various solutions were tried – decapitation, Parliamentary tyranny, reason, bribery – but nothing worked until the Glorious Revolution, when James II was booted out, and a replacement found who wasn't interested in exercising absolute power. And still, it took another century to work out all the kinks.

OK, so here was Talossa, with a King who seemed entirely unable (or at least unwilling) to allow anyone to do anything that he didn't approve of. He couldn't tax or imprison or behead anyone, but he sure could drive them out of the country by

sheer unpleasantness. He was the object of lots of personal loyalty, and to a great extent deserved it; he'd invented the whole thing, after all! So I thought, Hmmm, I wonder if it would be possible to find a way for smart independent creative people to enjoy being in Talossa, active in Talossan politics or culture or whatever, even if they didn't want to kowtow constantly to Ben? And I decided to find out if I could help bring that about.

I knew it had been tried before, without success. I figured there was a 20% chance of succeeding this time, but I intended to have fun trying, win or lose.

As for joining the Republic, it never really occurred to me. Kingdoms are just so much cooler than Republics, and present the politician with so much more in the way of interesting tactical and strategic problems.

Almost everyone when they first meet R. Ben Madison find him charming, intelligent, and friendly. Was that your impression as well, or did you realise something was "off" from the beginning?

Ben is clearly intelligent and creative, and can be very funny. But before I immigrated, I'd already read quite a bit of his writing (and I'm not talking about Ar Päts), so I had a pretty good idea of the kind of lying bully I was going to be dealing with. Intelligent, creative, funny; paranoid, vindictive, dishonest.

How was the Conservative Loyalist party founded? Doesn't that

name seem kind of ironic in retrospect?

I wasn't there at the founding – you'd have to ask Fritz. And no, I don't think the name is ironic; Ben might think so, but he always confused loyalty to Talossa with unquestioning support of Ben. (And of course he changed what that meant from one day to the next.) I'm loyal to Talossa, to the Organic Law, to the monarchy. God save the King!

When did you first incur the infamous "Wrath of Ben"?

Heh. He was getting more and more pissed off at me as time passed and it became obvious I wasn't about to swoon in abject admiration at every turn, but I think the first real smash was when I attacked the Black Hand for claiming to "promote the Talossan language wherever possible", while actually failing to allow anyone to learn or use it anywhere. In the course of the discussion I wrote "Meanwhile, the Republicans ('quitters') seem to be actually trying to 'promote the Talossan language wherever possible, and use Talossan as a recruiting tool to attract new citizens'. Why aren't we in the Kingdom doing this?" Ben went ballistic. I was "celebrating plagiarism", "supporting theft", "earning a lifetime of hatred from loyal Talossans" and so on. You know the drill.

I wasn't surprised, or even particularly annoyed. It was pretty much what I expected, given the kind of guy Ben is. Maybe the most surprising thing to me through all this has been

how ineffective Ben's nastiness was, how little tactical sense he showed. He didn't use the political power he actually had, but tried to win by bullying and intimidation instead. And damn can the guy lie.

Your forensic skill in cutting down bogus legal challenges has impressed people on both sides of the Vuode Wall. Do you have legal training? Were you shocked to find that the rule of law is not "Talossan tradition"?

I don't have any formal legal training, but I've always been interested in law and legal history. Most of my hardcore study has been in canon law. I've been a member of various Synods – Church legislative bodies – and served on various ecclesiastical courts, so I'm used to asking "What does the law actually say? What does it mean?" and reasoning from there.

And no, not shocked at all. Talossan law has never been very well written, or well enforced; and the 600-pound gorilla in the picture has always been Ben, willing to do or say anything to get his way, up to and including alienating and driving away his oldest and best friends and supporters. That sort of passionate hostility can be pretty intimidating if you're not expecting it.

What do you think of R. Ben Madison - and ex-Queen Amy - now?

I hardly know anything of Amy; what little contact I've had with her has been kind of unpleasant. As for Ben, I doubt he's changed any. Maybe he'll be able to find ways to keep happy without Talossa to control, or maybe not. I'm thinking I don't care much.

Several commentators in the Republic have cast doubt on the CLP's support of the infant King Louis I. What would you say to those who would say that it's irresponsible to put a child who has no idea what's going on at the symbolic head of the nation? Assuming that you're intent on a constitutional monarchy, aren't there better choices for a royal family "closer to home", as it were?

Well, that's the thing. We aren't starting from scratch, are we? King Louis is King of Talossa because the law says he is, because he inherited the throne, because the

"The 600-pound gorilla in the picture has always been Ben, willing to do or say anything to get his way, up to and including alienating and driving away his oldest and best friends and supporters. That sort of passionate hostility can be pretty intimidating if you're not expecting it."

- John Woolley



Coat of arms of the Kingdom of Talossa

former King abdicated in his favour. I suppose it might be possible for some future Ziu to overthrow him, but the CLP certainly has no plans to do so. I'd be against it myself. It's just one of those things that happens sometimes in a monarchy – you get a King who isn't particularly interested or suitable. Part of the challenge of monarchical constitutional government is getting through these periods, even using them to strengthen the constitution. Kings – most Kings anyway – rule "by the grace of God", not because they're carefully selected by politicians to be Kings.

Will any Kingdom citizens apply for "Friend of the Republic" status? Conversely, what would the reaction be to Republicans posting on Kingdom-Wittenberg?

Speaking only for myself now, I certainly wouldn't have any problem with members of either group posting on the other's bulletin board. We have a lot in common, and there's no reason not to talk with each other. If problems come up – "Kingdom's better", "No, Re-

public's better", "Kingdom!", "Republic!" ad nauseam – we can probably deal with them as they happen.

Do you feel that there will ever be "One Talossa" again? Certainly both sides of the border want friendly relations, but do you think the Kingdom and Republic have diverged so far that there will never again be a consensus on what Talossa truly is?

Again, just a personal opinion, and nothing official – but I don't think we'll probably ever unite, at least not in anything like the near future. The political cultures are already – after one year of separation – pretty far apart. Y'all have written a new constitution, embodying republican ideals, and begun to work out how to live under it; we have an old constitution, full of monarchical ideals, and a whole body of old law and custom, and we're working out how to live under it. Very different problems with very different solutions. Think of Great Britain and the United States. There's no way in the world they'll ever "unite" in the sense of being one country, but how could two countries be closer?

Micronations of the world - unite!

What is ESTO?

The Ephemeral States Treaty Organization is an alliance of serious, peaceful, democratic and fun-loving micronations dedicated into improving relations between them, and between their citizens, while helping encourage a movement of inter-micronational exchange with the goal of nourishing the members' growth.

It will aim toward establishing membership in ESTO as a seal of quality for micronations, differencing the bug nations from serious projects.

It is not meant to serve as "Yet Another Micronation Organization" (YAMO) to once again try and establish a United Nations in the micronational community. Instead, it is meant to serve as truly a dynamic organization dedicated to helping its members. It will NOT be a simple diplomatic forum, but rather a driving force in the development of micronations.

What does ESTO mean for the Republic of Talossa?

It is designed to become the major Foreign Affairs initiative of the Republic and to become the "vessel" through which most of the interventions of the Republic toward the micronational "community" will be channelled.

It will be the primary outlet of "foreign aid" through which the Republic of Talossa, which aims to position itself as a superpower in the micronational community, will be able to help other less organized or smaller micronations grow.

How will ESTO work?

Any micronation which follows a series of guidelines will be able to join ESTO, for example: At least two years of existence, at least ten active and voting citizens, respectful of its citizens and other micronational citizen's rights and ready to follow ESTO's charter.

Smaller or younger



New Foreign Minister of the Republic MARTÌ-PÁIR FURXHÉIR unveils the centrepiece of the new PSD government's foreign policy - the Ephemeral States Treaty Organisation.

micronations will be able to join as associate members until they fulfill all of the requirements. They will have all privileges of full members but shall not have a right to vote.

ESTO will have a charter inspired by the United Nations, but with Goals and powers similar to NATO.

A General assembly of all of the members of ESTO will provide the guidelines of the organization in a general assembly convened every three months. It will in a way act at the legislative branch of ESTO.

An Executive council, composed of approximately one-third of the members, will assume office between General Assemblies. It will act as the "government" of ESTO and will assumes all executive duties, as well as some limited legislative duties.

Like the Security Council of the UN, there will be Permanent Mem-

bers with a veto right (at first only the Republic of Talossa) and non-permanent members elected for one year, half every six months.

Permanent members of the Executive council will also have a veto right in the general assembly. New permanent members can be established by the general assembly, provided the non-permanent members always form a majority of the executive council.

The Executive council will be the driving force of ESTO. They will determine what ESTO will do an day to day operations, how to help a micronation, how to react to a certain event.

What will ESTO do?

Unlike the UN, ESTO will be allowed to intervene partially in the affairs of member states. For example, should a member state violate the rights of one of its citizens, ESTO will be empowered to impose a restoration of the rights of that citizen, barring which the member state could be suspended or expelled from ESTO.

ESTO will also offer foreign aid to its members: aid toward establishing a constitution, a series of laws, in getting their legal framework established even in getting their websites hosted, designed and up to date.

ESTO will impose a bill of rights on its members, protecting freedom, peace and democracy in general, as well as the personal rights of its citizens and of the citizens of other member states, including rights to citizenship and the rights to privacy.

ESTO will provide aid against foreign threats: when a member of ESTO is attacked, libelled, spammed, hacked or otherwise harmed by another micronation, ESTO will defend the victim and help it get proper reparation, while helping the proper authorities prosecute the belligerent(s).

ESTO will provide direct help to its members: web design, constitutional suggestions, and suggestions on how to have a working court, how to host your website, how to define a good immigration law, etc.

On Dandelions and the Republic's Consciousness: An Essay on Talossan Progressivism

By **ANTONIO LIXHITA**, Chair of
the Union for Talossan
Progress

(<http://faculty.concord.edu/aunderwood/UTP>)

It can be said that intellectual conflict is healthy as it sharpens thoughts and beliefs for those open enough to participate in its "whittling" effects. Extraneous thoughts, prejudices and personal preferences are shorn away in honest mental sparring. For a Progressive this is a good thing, a positive process that all too often can only be assisted by those who oppose you. The recently debated issue of "Dandelions" has served as a whetstone to bring the Progressive agenda into sharp focus.

For those who are not familiar or did not care, "Dandelion" is a special citizenship designation left over from the days of the Kingdom and recognized by the provisional government. This status was exclusively for children born to citizens of the Kingdom / Provisional Republic. Dandelions could on their 14th birthday request an expedited citizenship process not available to others seeking full citizenship status.

The recent debate on the Dandelion subject centered on the inherent un-republican, regressive qualifications for this status. At first, the citizenship status of the 14 and younger crowd seems to be a marginal legal concern. However, the debate on the issue has led to problematic discoveries and revelations about the nature of our good Republic and the need for a more Progressive orientation to our Government.

The very concept of a special citizenship avenue being available to some people and not others is anathema to all

things democratic and republican. The idea that a person is excluded from a particular legal status within the Republic simply by reason of their parentage or the timing of their birth is not only wrongheaded but is nothing more than a pale ghost of monarchy.

The Progressive position is neither for nor against the institution of Dandelion-hood. Indeed the Prime Minister and editor of this publication has stated that the Dandelion status is largely useless as a recruiting tool and it may be that she'll be proved right. Since to our knowledge no Dandelion has attained the age of citizenship we will not comment on its efficacy as a citizenship program. Our problem is with the exclusionary and unconstitutional nature of the program itself.

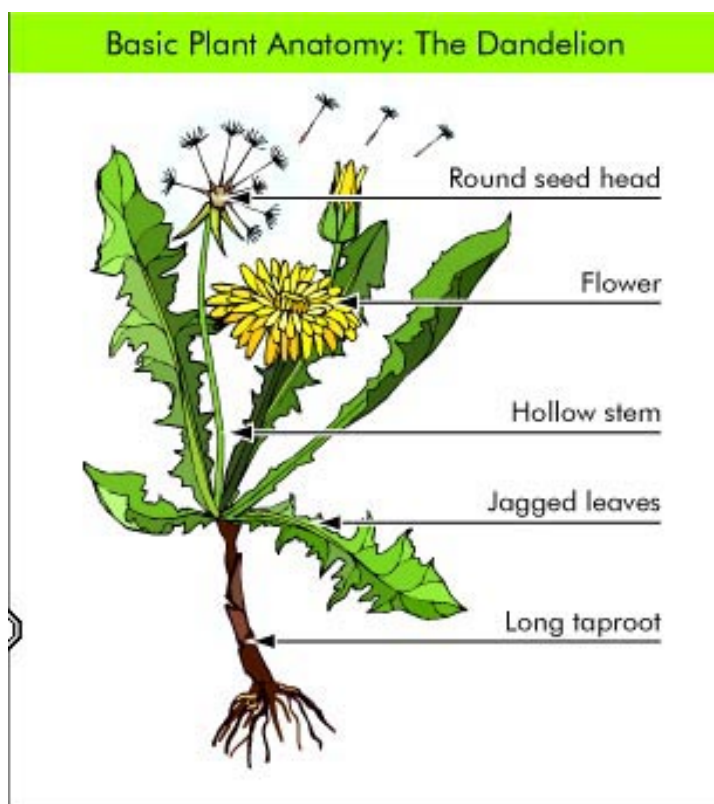
This is an issue of equal treatment before the law. Title One, Article Four, Sections 4 - 5 of the Constitution reads:

"4. All persons are equal before the law. This is the right of individual value.

5. No one may be prejudiced or favoured due to sex, parentage, race, language, homeland or origin, faith, religious or political opinions, or sexual orientation."

It seems to me that granting unique citizen status, even a seemingly meaningless title, based on who your parents are and when you were born is a clear violation the spirit of section 4 and a literal violation of section

5. In a Republic, social distinction should be available to all, granted by your peers, gained by merit and be not the product of



fortune, birth and exceptionalism. Since it would be equally unconstitutional to strip our current crop of Dandelions of their unique citizenship status without due cause and process, the Dandelion program or one of equivalent stature must be made available to all children of all citizens.

Here in lies the bedrock, core principles, of the Union for Talossan Progress. We believe that government exists for a few basic principles that can be admittedly complex in their execution.

Equality Before the Law. This is the starting point for all legitimate governments. Some conservative commentators would list the "rule of law" and the foundation of good government, but that is not true. If one has an unjust law, then the rule of law can be unjust. Totalitarian regimes have rule of

law, but I doubt we would hold them as exemplars of good government. Every citizen, native or naturalized, black or white, heterosexual or homosexual, secular or religious or both, must be held in the same regard and respect in each and every law of the land. I fear that there is a subtle prejudice against citizenship growth in our Republic. The existence of select unjust laws towards new citizens are nothing more than the last vestiges of a discredited crown.

Equality of Opportunity. Equality in and of itself is a desirable goal, but like much else must be tempered by respect for individual talents, rights, drives and ability. There is an old short story about a dystopian society that, in a drive to ensure equality made the overly tall walk stooped, the well-sighted were distorting

(continued on next page)

Dandelions and Talossan Progressivism (cont.)

glasses and the athletic wear weights about the legs. Government exists not to make every citizen equal, but to provide the fair opportunity for every citizen to succeed by their own measure. This can be accomplished through education, training, and specific awareness programs to right past wrongs. This is also accomplished through a strong and complete social support system that is less of a safety net and more of a trampoline.

Active Liberty. Some say that you must have a small, unobtrusive government to ensure individual liberty. Others argue that government must be large, involved in every life activity, to ensure equality. These views are only half right. Progressives believe, as Teddy Roosevelt did, that just as police are needed to guarantee individual safety, so active governments are needed to protect the liberty of citizens threatened by moneyed interest, the powerful conglomerates and those who put personal power before universal freedom. A large activist government that respects the individual freedoms and choices of each citizen must exist to protect those freedoms from those who would profit from their absence.

Responsible Growth. Progress is also about growth. But not just any type of growth. Like a gardener tending a flower bed we must help our plants to thrive, and grow, even adding new plants, while not letting weeds overtake the unique beauty of our plot. Here in the Republic, there are those who are afraid of growth. It seems that this fear has been with Talossa at least since the advent of the internet era with the concerns over "cybercitizens" having undue influence. Even now, one can find these fears being expressed on the Witt, some going so far as to prefer tiny voting rolls to real growth. Progressives support looking to likely populations for the active

recruiting of responsible new citizens.

Based on these principles and the Constitution the only real answer to the Dandelion conundrum is for the Republic to set up a naturalization program for the under 14 children of all citizens, regardless of the child's date of birth. Citizenship should not be automatic for dandelions, but whatever legal advantages have been granted to the monarchical/provisional era dandelions must also be accorded to all children of new citizens. If it comes right down

to it, perhaps even a ruling from the High Court will be called for. The UTP would regret the involvement of the Court but would not shy away from it either.

Aside from the legalities, ask yourself these questions; Is treating the children of new citizens as social inferiors of the children of older citizens any way to encourage new citizens to join? Should the Republic be in the business of making social distinctions between citizens based only on birth? I think not.

one bear's view...

by D. Nanöc'hfiglheu Vercáriâ



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Qator Itrins welcomes your letters, essays, news, articles, interviews and rants for publication, in Talossan or English (or, in exceptional circumstances, some other language which the Editor speaks and can translate). Articles longer than 2,000 words will not usually be printed. Send all contributions to heatherblackrose@paradise.net.nz, preferably in RTF format. Deadline is the 27th of each month. **Sã vivadra la Repúblicâ Talossán!**

Så vivádra viðs naziun Talossán!

QATOR ITRÌNS

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Talossa's Journal of Debate and Discussion

QATOR.TALOSSA.NET

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DÎN ACEASTÂ IßÛTÂ / In this issue:

- **Special Issue: The Future of the Republic**

Contributions from:

Els Zefençadéirs dal Repúblicâ Talossán

Antóniô Lixhità

Txec Danihél dal Már

Ûc Tärfâ

D. N. Verçariâ

EDITOR'S NOTE: most of these articles were originally scheduled for publication in May. Pressed for time and energy, I subcontracted production of that issue to an interested party, who sadly fell gravely ill and was not able to complete the issue. These articles have been salvaged and are being republished today for several reasons. Firstly, as historical documents; secondly, because the insights they contain are still valid; thirdly, to perhaps encourage some of their authors who have drifted into inactivity to return to active Talossanity; and fourthly, as a jumpstart to get Qator Itrins on the road again. Enjoy.

MIESTRÂ SCHIVÂ, Redactéir

editorial

A funny thing happened on the way to a new Qator Itrîns....

I had absolutely no intention, when I took a break after the last issue, to let things slide for more than a year. I was in the process of moving to a different city and taking on more projects in my extra-Talossan life, but I thought I could keep up a bimonthly or at least a quarterly schedule.

Well. Is my face red.

What's happened in the year-and-a-bit since I last wrote a column like this? We have a new President and a new (and frankly better!) Seneschál. A formal agreement of friendship and co-operation has been agreed with the Kingdom of Talossa – although there are questions over how long it will survive, given the volatile political climate on that side of the border.

But, sadly, in the absence of this journal applying a boot to the backside of the cultural life of the Talossan nation, things have stagnated on the being-Talossan rather than playing-politics front. No other outlet, for example, has arisen for new writing in the Talossan language. We are still waiting for the cross-border Talossan community to get up and running; sadly, here as elsewhere, culture is hostage to political developments.

Which is one of the major reasons why I resigned the office of Seneschál dal Repúblicâ. It has been brought home to me, in no uncertain terms, that Qator Itrîns is absolutely vital for the cultural and intellectual development of Talossa – and my schedule had to clear to make room for it.

So let's hope that it's not another year before you see the next issue. But what will I want to have seen changed since then? I want the Republic to have developed on an all-round basis – in close co-operation with the Kingdom, as far as that's practical. I want a Talossan-language discussion board and more people than me writing Talossan-language prose and poetry. I want Wittenberg filled with discussion of art, music, food and all the other things that make life worth living and Talossa a nation rather than a political simulation. I want Talossan culture to grow from real human interaction, not just the gladiatorial games of parliamentary and Presidential politics and its associated theory-mongering. And I want Qator Itrîns to be there, documenting and promoting every important bit of it.



Miestrâ Schivâ, Redactéir

dal redactéir

Qualse'cosâ comic tent paßat â irê à'iens Qator Itrîns noueu...

Non tigñhovéu aucûn intenziun, quând téu començat va endradâs ospréi la ißûtâ dirnalaiset, laßar qê cosâs stagnarhent dÛrânt pÛ qê viêns âr. Eu alugñhéveu à'iensâ citâ novâ, és començéveu pÛ dels proxhets dîn va vidâ non-Talossân, más crevéu qê pÛt continuar 'n þorariÛ bimensúrn eða à mhius quîrtál.

Ben. Va façâ c'è roxh, ¿oi?

Qêt isch paßat dÛrânt el âr-és-'n-pô descînd téu scriÛt dirnalaiset 'n colÛm com'acest? Noi tent 'n PrÛm Citaxhiên noueu és 'n Seneschál noueu (és

vrâtsmînt miglhôr!). 'N consonançâ formál dal amicità és del cuntravalátx isch agreedâ cÛn el Regipäts Talossân – ivêndo ja quesziuns övêr come lungmînt ça sÛrvivarha, zonat el climäts politicál vulcanál sÛr aceastâ sidâ dal ligñhâ Vuode.

Más, tristamînt, sânc q'acest xhurnál zona dels cops da ped àl ciôl dal vidâ culturál dal naziun Talossân, cosâs tent stagnat àl frînt da “estarê Talossân” propri qê “xhúar àl politici”. Aucûn eschтивéu altreu, pêr exampál, tent luschat pêr escribînd noueu Ladîntsch. Noi atendent adÛc qê si inogura la comunità Romançadâ toct-Talossân; tristamînt, aici come d'altêr, la culturà isch hostaxheu às svilups politici.

Aglhêrc, qê non sarâ 'n âr da phÛ avînt qê si vîa la ißûtâ proximâ. Más qê volt-eu vidâre cambiat ospréi acest tîmp? Eu volt qê la Repúblicâ tischa developat toct-comprîsmînt – dîn cuntravalátx proxim cÛn el Regipäts, aßéi qê ça sarâ practicál. Eu volt vidarê 'n forÛm dal discuziun Romançadâ, és xhints altreux qê mhe scriuarê dal proçâ és poesîa Ladîntsch. Eu volt qê Wittenberg sarâ piên dal discuziun övêr el îrt, el músiqueu, la eziun, és toct i cosâs altrâs qî façent la vidâ qualse'cosâ da valutâ, és qî façent Talossa 'n naziun, propi qê 'n müsaziun politicál. Eu volt qê la culturà Talossân grÛltiçarha pêr înteraziun vrâts yumán, non solamînt els gladioux dels politici parlamîntál és prÛmcitaxhiênál, és sieu þeorîaziunadâ aßoçiatadâ. És eu volt qê Qator Itrîns sarâ là, pêr documentar és promotar toct qê en isch împîrînt.

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'N Manifesto Zefençistà

A Defencist Manifesto

Zefençismeu, or Defencism – the ideology on which the ZRT party is founded – sees itself as the heir to the traditions which have kept Talossa strong, vibrant and proud throughout its history. At the same time, it repudiates the traditions which kept Talossa paranoid, nasty, and cultish for much of the later history of the pre-Revolutionary period. We stand in, and defend, the best traditions of the Declaration of Independence of December 1979 which created Talossa, the Revolution of June 2004 which created the modern Talossan Republic, and the “Quiet Revolution” of August 2005 which created the modern Kingdom of Talossa.

Defencism, therefore, contains the following strands:

1. Nationalism. We uphold the tradition that Talossa is a nation – defined by Perry Anderson as “an imagined community”. We see ourselves (or at least behave as if we do) as a nation of the world, but we cast no judgement on the validity of other non-sovereign entities' claims to nationhood. The

**by Miestrà Schivâ
Founder/President,
Els Zefençadéirs dal
Repúblicâ Talossán**

Talossan nation includes all current citizens of the Kingdom and the Republic of Talossa, and some who are not currently citizens but have historically shown themselves to be Talossan. We support Talossa having the full panoply of institutions of a nation-state, insofar as they are useful or fun for a population of our size.

2. Traditionalism. Talossa is the Talossan traditions that have evolved more or less continuously since 1979. A Talossan is defined in part by being aware of the history of that tradition and continuing to work within it. This tradition is always open to change – however, too great a rupture with those traditions, and Talossa will cease to be Talossa. One vitally important tradition of the Talossan nation is *el glhep naziunál*, and Defencism strives towards the goal of *'n naziun Ladîntsch* – where all citizens would know and use at least a small amount of the Talossan language in their daily business.

3. Pretentiousness. Although the Talossan state possesses no sovereign power, behaving as if it does is an essential part of the fun of being Talossan. Pomp, rhetoric and boasting are an important part

of the Talossan tradition. However, we also see all this with a touch of irony. We repudiate that part of the Talossan tradition which honoured historical dictatorships and oppressive regimes on the grounds that their uniforms were snazzy. In this, Defencism is a *left-wing* form of Talossan nationalism.

4. Republican dirigism. This phrase attempts to define the particular way that Defencism sees the Talossan state:

a) All citizens should be equal before the law.

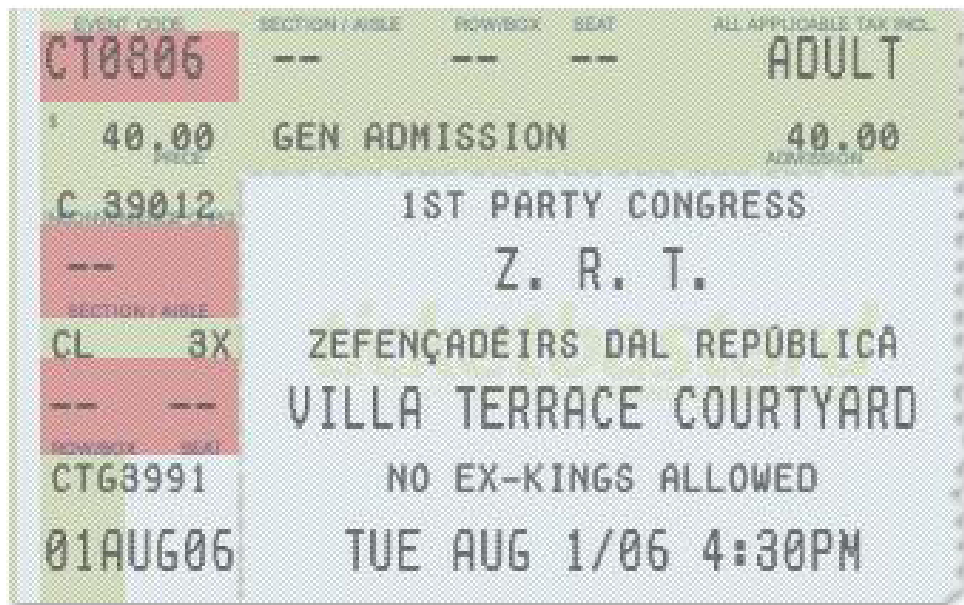
b) All government offices should derive their powers from a popular mandate and be regularly subject to democratic scrutiny, to the extent that this does not impede their ability to make decisions and take action.

c) The state should have real power and responsibility for the collective life of the nation, including but not limited to cultural development, settlement of disputes between citizens and relations with other nations.

d) Real power in the Talossan state should lie where the constitution and

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'N MANIFESTO ZEFENÇISTÀ - CONTINUED



A possibly forged ticket to the first ZRT congress

laws declare it to lie. We repudiate pre-Revolutionary Talossa's history of "name only" governments and committees, and a legislature which debated frivolous bills while real power lay elsewhere.

5. Unity. There is no good reason for two Talossan states to exist. This political division weakens the nation. However, the cultural gap between the two states is currently too wide for political unity to be a realistic goal in the foreseeable future. The Defencists support:

a) as a first priority, rebuilding the cultural unity of the Talossan nation;

b) eventual political unity as only coming after a

vast consensus of both States, under a new Constitution drafted by a convention with equal representation by both States.

6. Diversity. We repudiate the historical tradition of "cultural monolithism" in Talossa. Every one of good will who pledges loyalty to the Constitution and Laws of Talossa should be welcome as a citizen. Although we defend Talossan cultural traditions as we understand them, we recognize that the democratic will of the people trumps tradition. Cultural distinctiveness should be encouraged in Talossa's provinces – in fact, that is the main reason why they should continue to exist.

7. Focus outwards. At all those times when Talossa has become inward-looking and static, it has become a nasty place to live. Talossa

is best when we are continually accepting new Talossans, and engaging in cultural exchanges with non-Talossans of good will. We are poorer for pretending that we exist in a vacuum.

The ZRT is therefore a cultural movement as well as a political party, which seeks to actively build Talossan culture and deepen understanding of our history, while at the same time competing democratically for positions within the Talossan State and seeking to improve our constitution and laws. We believe that our Seven Points above embody the positive side of the tradition which has kept Talossa alive for almost three decades.

Visit the ZRT website at:
<http://web.telialia.com/~u18120780/ZRT/>

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SELLING DREAMS

How to market a country

by Antônio Lixhità
Chair, Union for
Talossan Progress

For those of you who do not know me, I do a style of marketing and promotion for a living. Amongst other responsibilities, I recruit and market to potential students and their parents for an institution of higher education. It isn't like selling used cars or new televisions. You can't just slash your prices, improve your quality, lower your costs and make a profit.

Convincing kids to come to your university (and for some of our disadvantaged students, convincing them to go to college at all) is a task that requires them to buy into a lifestyle choice, and you must promote the unique character, traditions and advantages of your institution, all the while reassuring the potential student that your institution is friendly, fun and worth their time.

In short, we sell dreams; dreams of a better life, of a special place, of belonging to a unique fellowship and community. I believe that there are great similarities between marketing universities and marketing the Republic.

In the Republic Prime Minister's opening address to the current Chamber of Deputies, Miestrà Schivâ focused on the need to market and expand the republic. I agree. In fact last November one of the first proposals of the Union for Talossa Progress (UTP) before it became a political party was the need to market the Republic. We welcome the Prime Minister's efforts in this area.

The most basic elements of any marketing program are:

1. To whom are you marketing?
2. What can you give them that others cannot?

As to whom we should be marketing I will crassly quote myself from the UTP web site:

"It seems that those most likely to join the



republic would be reasonably well educated, computer savvy individuals with more than a passing interest in politics. . . . So, where do literate, political technophiles congregate? I think it would be safe to assume that they pool at colleges and universities."

This not to say we should only recruit at college and universities, but rather that is where our first official efforts should target. After all, with limited resources we should move into a target rich environment and university communities have a wealth of the open-minded, obsessive, creative people we need for the Republic. My only mistake was in focusing on the political.

We should use this summer as a planning period for a major, coordinated marketing program to coincide with the start of the university school year in North America focusing on campuses and their larger communities throughout the world.

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SELLING DREAMS - CONTINUED

I believe that a promotional committee should be set up immediately, with representatives from the Executive, the Immigration Ministry and chaired by a person with marketing experience to provide a set of specific recommendations to the Executive no later than July 8, 2006. Here are just a few of my personal recommendations which allows individual citizens and the government as a whole to participate in promoting the Republic of Talossa.

Citizen Level

Asking a Likely Friend – Many of us have done this and it is a low – tech, but very effective, not to mention affordable. Not only ask a likely person, but help them work through the necessary process.

Downloadable Flyer – We should supply a downloadable pdf flyer for any citizen to use in libraries, bookstores, coffee shops, etc. to educate people about the Republic and to encourage them to log on and look around.

My Talossan Life – We could include a blog from an active, friendly Talossan citizen as an insight to Talossan

relationship and events.

Social Clubs – Start and participate in a Social Club. Whether you want to discuss science fiction, or books, a recent movie, undiscovered music or your concerns over web site standards, active social clubs, with discussion boards and online events can give the non or semi political a real reason to join the republic.

Institutional Level

Comprehensive Media and Social Clubs – The American media is not limited to Time, Newsweek and CNN. There is also Entertainment Weekly, Sports Illustrated, South Park, Battlestar Galactica and the New Yorker. Nor should our media be limited to news, politics and language development. Many of our citizens write blogs on technology, the arts, pop culture, etc. Some of us have sought to create music and video web sites. All of these choices should be available on the media section of the web site to provide a wide variety of Talossan publications. Also, citizens who wish to start a social club should have the freedom to start a message board on the Witt, so long as it remains active. This will show that even if your interests does not reside in politics or language construction you can still have a place in Talossa.

Promotional Video – A well-done, humorous, but respectful video could certainly be an asset, especially if it is funny enough to be picked up by the viral video web pages.

A Complete Website

– All pages on the web site should be complete. Incomplete pages send a message of either decay or organizational shallowness. If it is not important enough to be completed, then it shouldn't be an empty page on the web site, though a blank Ministry of Information page does at least provide some ironic humor.

MySpace Account – Seems straight forward to me. One of the world's most popular networking sites should have an "embassy" from the Republic, along with an Ambassador-at-large to maintain the site.

Republic of Talossa Wikipedia Entry – Recently cited as possibly the "best encyclopedia ever" by Time Magazine, I think it an absolute necessity that the Republic have its own entry on Wikipedia. I think that the people who read the Wikipedia obsessively might be our kind of people.

A favorite science fiction novel of my youth observed that societies are either growing or dying, implying that even comfortable stasis is in the long run a death sentence for a society. I think it is time that we make our choice.

Visit the website of the Union for Talossan Progress at
<http://www.talossanprogress.org>

ißütâ speciál:el fütür dal repúblicâ ATXUTAR EL SVILÚP DAL REPÚBLICÂ

për Üc Tärfâ del Movamáintsch Repúblícán për Peculiarisme

Talossa'n grült Naziun'st, más isch dîn ün danxhéir parç qê sieu svilúp piertga l'empientâ initziál qi urixhineva cün la Revoluziun.

Talossa is a Great Nation, but she's in great danger because her growth is losing the initial push that originated with the Revolution. From the 1st of June 2004 to the 14th of April 2005 the Annual Rate of Growth (calculated by the I.N.S. "William H. Cooper" assuming 1 new citizen per month as unity) was 92% , while from the 14th of April 2005 to the same date on 2006 had diminished to 66% . To be frank, it's not exciting data, because it's the natural number of people that can be attracted by their own initiative to a micronation like we are - certainly one of the best and more serious. This situation warns us that if we don't urgently plan action at the same time on many fronts, there's the risk that the Republic will collapse for lack of new citizens (and consequently new resources) with an ARG dramatically low.

La Seneschál Schivâ promised a plan to help the growth since the 8th of September 2005, but in la Camera on the 22nd of April she admitted that this plan, after seven months, is far from ready. I believe that Talossa can no wait more, and a concrete plan or at least guidelines for a policy that will help the growth of our Republic should be drafted and realised.

Foreign Affairs

To achieve the result of guaranteeing the Republic's growth, the collaboration and the efforts of every Citaxhien are necessary, as well as a constructive and peaceful collaboration between Majority and Opposition. The Republic should in fact focus its attention and act simultaneously on many fronts, that could be collected in three major areas: afâes útphätseshti, afâes înphätseshti and



marchetátx és baxhët.

The Republic has abandoned the isolationalistic policy of the Old Kingdom (also with the dismissal of the useless Dual Citizenship Ban), and this certainly has helped us and has augmented our notoriety. But we have only grazed the surface: the Micronational World is an enormous reservoir of potential Citizens, especially those disappointed by too many

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ATXUTAR EL SVILUP DAL REPÚBLICÂ - CONTINUED

simulations of wars, authoritarian systems and a widespread “not serious” attitude. We should focus on attracting those people who are looking for a serious Micronation by publicising our policies and system.

Foreign Affairs are fundamental, because even if a form of marketing is carried out, to be well known in the ambient of Micronationalism is the best way to attract those who have experience in Micronations but are (or beginning to be) disappointed by the majority of them. Our Foreign Policy should be oriented to: extend relations (following the doctrine “if you exist, you exist”, without spending time in senseless discussions about the need or not of “diplomatic recognition”) with all the serious Micronations which are interested in a constructive dialogue. In my humble opinion, Nova Roma will be a perfect example of this. We seek to gain Visibility and Notoriety inside the Micronational Ambience, as well as quickly creating the Ephemeral State Treaty Organization; and be the house and the destination of the “élite” of Micronationalists, those who look for an High Quality and Serious Micronation.

On the Home Affairs side, the Republic should make the Immigration process easier (which fortunately in itself is quite perfect seen

from the point of view of the target market); make the Access and the Discovering of Talossa easier for everyone, and develop those peculiarities of Talossa that can attract new Citizens. This doesn't mean that our State should sell its ideals and modify its entire structure in order to be “tempting”: the Republic must operate those changes only if they are compatible with her aims.

Politics and Language

And in this reasoning, there's the demonstration of the strict relation between Home and Foreign Affairs



Flag of Nova Roma (www.novaroma.org)

guidelines: Talossa could attract persons who look for Serious and Stable Micronations only emphasizing her principles and characteristics. The two most important of these are certainly politics and its unique culture, especially the most precious treasure: el ghlep.

Improving and developing el ghlep, in order to attract those who are interested in Constructed Languages, must be a priority. The Minister of Culture should create in this community a more prestigious place for el ghlep - for example, presenting it in a better way in the places where the ConLangers habitually talk and exchange opinions: Langmaker.com, ConLang mailing list etc. Because el ghlep has great potential and is one of

the richer conlangs in terms of size of Vocabulary and completeness of the Grammar. But what we need is a stronger community inside the Republic devoted to the issue of developing, and using on a major scale el ghlep.

Expanding participation in political life (without compromising the essence of our Representative Democracy) in order to attract those who are interested in having fun doing Politics (the big majority of Micronationalists), might be another way to improve the “appeal” of the Republic. Making a parallel with a Micronation similar to us concerning the Naturalization Process (in fact, stricter than our own, requiring a 90 day probation period) and the seriousness of its institutions and its citizens, Nova Roma, we can learn something.

Certainly the aspect of Living and Recreating Ancient Rome is a powerful incentive that is not present in our Republic, but there every citizen has a role in the legislative process that is fuller than in Talossa. Even if in Nova Roma the political aspect is not the only fundamental, the participation of every citizen is fundamental. And their population is circa 900. In our Republic having fun doing politics is, together with the Cultural pursuits, the most attractive and developed

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factor: but if this fun effectively is reduced on the federal level to only a vote cast once every six months and, apart from Cézembre, politics at the provincial level is on hiatus; part of the fun is lost. Talossa does not need to change its Representative Democracy to one based on Direct Democracy, but certainly we need to allow in some way a more active participation of present and future Citizens.

Marketing

Making the parts of the website related to Immigration available also in other languages than English is a “must”: if we offer information in 9 languages, instead of only 1, our area of potential immigrants will be significantly enlarged. Another good example could be a page on Wikipedia shared with the Kingdom, a concise “Talossa for Beginners/New Citizens Guide”; and to spur people to move from “Friends of the Republic” status to Citaxhiens, we might introduce randomly periods of a few days in which those people could gain access to an “easy citizenship”. For example, as they have already an account on Witt, they are supposed to be known to the Citizenry; so in this special period they could become prospectives by simply and directly requesting a vote on their citizenship, without being obliged to fulfill the others requirements.

Talking about “real marketing campaigns”, a simple and effective act of marketing that doesn't require great expenses, is the use of Google AdWords. AdWords are advertising that Google display in their search page and on the sites which display a box called “ads provided by Google” (that is Google AdSense). Each ad is displayed following the options decided by the user, the most common are keywords (for example: micronation, conlang, languages, politics, country) and language. Costs are not high, because basically this service is invoiced on CPC (Cost per Click) system, that means that we will have to pay Google everytime someone clicks on the link in our ads. But the CPC is defined by us, and we can also set up a maximum expense per month.

To collect this money, there are many solutions, receiving donations, using Google AdSense, etc, but the most secure way will be the creation of annual taxes for citizens. They might be collected by the Republic basing the rates on a fix percentage of the GDP per year of the country where the citizen lives, in this way we will guarantee the equality of payments and problems related to the exchange rates (that would benefit some citizens) will be avoided. Taxes will also help the Republic to resolve a big problem perfectly explained in the Seneschál's words (27th of March): « we need to find some sustainable way to keep our national webspace in operation. At the moment the deal is that the President of the Republic organises this with the Database Administrator, and currently both Chris and M-P are keeping that running out of the goodness of their hearts and wallets. Not a long-term sustainable option. At some stage we will at least need to start charging

some (very small) level of “taxation” (or membership fee, for the less derivative among us) to pay for domain registrations, shiny ID cards, etc. ».

However as Talossa is not, and will not be a money-making scheme, a possible surplus might be in part conserved in order to be able to face unexpected expenses, and part donated to humanitarian no-profit Organizations (like “Médecins Sans Frontières” or “Emergency”) or to adopt a child.

Conclusion

To conclude, we shall all together collaborate to reach the ambitious but necessary objective of making the Republic definitely and positively growing. I want to express again a thought I've outlined in la Camera last month quoting 6 words. The first should be well known by every citizen, « Aude Aliquid Dignum », because if Talossa wants to grow, she must dare, as she dared the 1st of July 2004 and the 14th of April 2005; the last three are by an Italian poet: « Memento Audere Semper » (Remember always to dare), because If we want Talossa to grow, we should always remember these three words.

(painstakingly edited into Standard English by Miestrà Schivà)

special issue: the future of the republic

"THE BEGINNINGS OF A CULTURAL SPRING"

As the second President of the Republic of Talossa, on day one of my term and day one of the third year of true democracy and freedom in our nationette, I'm somehow surprised to find myself in this august position. I joined the Republic in October 2004, and it's not my intention to bore you with a review of my Talossan career. Anyhow this is the moment to annotate that the Republic of Talossa is a land of opportunities for those who join the country and actively make themselves at home in our society.

I found the web pages of the forerunner of the Republic, the Kingdom of Talossa that we overcame, in 1996. As much as the discovery of kindred whimsical souls out there in the internet literally knocked me off my feet, I couldn't make up my mind to join the Talossa of King Ben. This hasn't been insight or foresight or instinct, it was just because I never understood why people who would soon live in the year 2000 could adore monarchy, a concept that was already quaint in the year 1000, after the achievements of the ancient Greeks and the Roman Republic. That's why I incidentally, unrelatedly and innocently joined the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia, and thus a little bit later on I had to find out I didn't escape the gravity of Planet Talossa.

No doubt, Talossa owed and owes the founder R. Ben Madison respect for many reasons. I don't want to fish for applause by flogging this somehow legendary eccentric monarch of yore now. Anyway it's well known that he turned into a nag who was offending many people, and when someone (who's name is incidentally Tric'hard Fôrfesc) informed me about a Revolution in Talossa, I saw that instead of the formerly omnipresent and almighty, increasingly cantankerous King Ben someone who signed his decrees as



**highlights from the
inaugural address of D. N.
Vercáriâ, second President
of the Talossan Republic,
Calondâ Gün 2006/xxvii/III**

"Humblest Man on Earth" had assumed the position at the helm of the nation. I don't know why, but this gesture lit an initial spark of desire for participation in the brand-new revolutionary Republic in my heart.

Times have changed, the so-called "Intertalossan Cold War" is over now, and I hope that I, as the first President of an era that isn't brand-new any more, will also be able to do the right things in the right time, as my lucky forerunners did. I hope that coming generations of Talossans will never forget,

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what these men, together with the people of their time, did for the rise of our Republic.

This is supposed to become a State of the Republic speech, so I better start talking in the present tense now, before I'll talk about the agenda of my presidency.

To say it in one sentence, today we can proudly say, that the Republic is in good shape. The time of extensive lawsmithing is over, our legislation isn't calling for big revisions. In many micronations this would be the end; no excessive legislative struggles, no fun, no societal life, end of the story. Not so in Talossa. After the excitements of the founding phase we made ourselves at home in a normality that does not embrace apathy.

I can see the beginning of a cultural spring, for instance a return to a fulfilling activity that has always been one asset of the Talossan culture: the fosterage and development of a certain constructed language that attracted many people who otherwise possibly wouldn't have been interested in joining a micronation like Talossa. And there are many other things that Talossans from all over the world are doing together, not only visibly on the various discussion forums (I know, this is not the correct plural, but my spell checker keeps me from using it, would you believe!) of the Republic. For example, your Seneschál and your second President recently cooperated in home recording of music, one living in New Zealand and the other in Germany.

So basically there's nothing to complain about. But there is one burning problem. We have a solid group of an active citizenry, but still, even though in average micronational dimensions we are a remarkably big nation, we're still too few to be on the safe side of not being endangered by running short of personnel.

Presently we wouldn't have enough active citizens to sit in a federal parliament of two Talossas. We don't even have enough citizens to get the full scale bi-cameral Parliament of our Republic up and running, let alone that most of our provinces still are

nothing but beautiful names and hazy ideas. Our political parties, pylons of the political system, are permanently close to collapsing because of a lack of manpower.

This shouldn't discourage us. Actually, after all what we achieved, and with all the daily pleasure that Talossa is giving us, there is no need to drown in desperation. It's just that there will still be a long way to go until our Talossa will be perfect. You know, this is good news, because perfection is sterile and maybe Godly and as we are mere humans, we need a destination to head for. The best goal will always lie beyond the horizon.

During the long run of my term I'm planning to be an active President... damn, I suppose I'll fire the ghostwriter who wrote this – can you hear me, you're fired, Mr. Obvious.

This is a democratic Talossa, and I'm still a member of the MRP, a party which always wanted to make Talossa even more democratic. Feel free to storm your President's office to talk to the man, straight to his face. This shouldn't be a sacrilege in a nation of less than 30 citizens.

Back to the issue of being too few Talossans for running the full-scale constitutional program with a bi-cameral Parliament and living, breathing, vibrating provinces, I'm quite sure that we will be able to develop wonderful programs to attract all the best micronationalists that we can find.

In my humble opinion, the simplest thing to get there is to keep our tiny little boat of a tiny Republic afloat, in good friendship, tolerance for each other, creativity, activity, in other words, just by being ourselves. This will be the best advertisement that I can think of. We'll just have to tell the world that we exist.

More later, when this day of celebration and remembering will be over. Dear fellow citizens, enjoy this 1st day of June, 2006, the beginning of the third year of our particular independence. There's still a lot of work to be done, but all work and no fun makes people dull boys and girls. Let's celebrate Independence Day now.

Long live our Republic - and then some days!

special issue: the future of the republic

THE JOURNEY TO TALOSSA

by Txec Danihél dal Már



It was a dark and stormy night 8 or 9 years ago now when I got my first hand-me-down computer. Excitedly I plugged the box into the wall found out how to plug the phone line into it and loaded AOL v. 2.3 into it and away I went down the dark and perfidious paths of cyber-surfdom.

That very first night I went looking for people who also shared my strange hobby of creating fictional nations and worlds. I had engaged in this hobby since I was a child and had read an article about other people that had what I considered to be the oddest hobby in the world on the internet. That night I did not find people that shared this hobby but I did find a curious little place called the Free Commonwealth of Penguinia.

Needing something to do I decided 'what the heck?' and I applied for citizenship. I was voted in a few days (maybe weeks) later. I found a bizarre magical place where everyone thought they were a poet or a film author. We had a man who thought he was a bear. We had a conservative in a land of liberals, a person who thought he was going nuts even though he was just growing up and we even had some people who refused to specify whether they were men or women. I was in heaven. Truly all the best freaks were there and

I fit in someplace finally.

Very shortly after my citizenship was approved Miestrà, as Lawspeaker, called for elections and a fellow Penguinian asked me to run for Althing, the legislative body of Penguinia. Much to my surprise and his chagrin I was elected.

I am proud of my involvement in Penguinia. I have times where I miss it terribly. We had a willingness to try some out of the ordinary kind of things that have been tried in few other places. We learned about the single transferable vote, especially as it relates to the expansion of democracy. I had never heard of this before my involvement there.

Consensus was another. We learned from our Penguinia experience that not having an order of how consensus should work was detrimental to progress. So in Polyphony we worked to create an order of operation.

From the ashes of Penguinia arose Polyphony, a group of which I was a founding member. Poly was to operate with some high standards to effect some real world change. I am not sure if we accomplished what we set out in all earnestness to do. But we did do some things of which we should be proud. Even though Polyphony was not a micronation in any real sense of the word I believe that one of the biggest reasons Polyphony crumbled and died was because it lack a cultural identity of it's own. We were all, with a few noted exceptions, former Penguinians with grand ideas and when those grand ideas became boring nothing was there to support the community.

By contrast in the Penguinian

experience the rage against King Ben subsided by the Exodees and we had our own little niche carved out in the world. We had e-movies and e-tv shows. We had P-tung, the national language and a couple of us created Pengogaelg which never took off. Our webmaster had maps and maps and more maps and a radio station. There were stories and jokes, self-help boards, and Deet and I had own little haven called San Pedro de Nada where anybody drunk enough would find a Polar Bear tanning in the tropics, a penguin with a redneck and a cowboy hat and an elephant tootin 'La Isla Bonita.' Guess where I spent a lot of time.

Truthfully the politics were fun to a point but the biggest drawing card for me was P-tung, our language. We got all wrapped up in politics and other things and we spent little time working on the language but a nation with it's own language was truly a neat idea to me. My main interest in Talossa is the language.

...well that and my ages old friends and the prospect of making some new ones.

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